Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Kaifu: Japan No U.S.'Yes-Man'; Doi Leads Poll

OW0202155990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1504 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu defended his diplomatic record before millions of television viewers Friday as opposition leaders called for stepping out of the shadow of the United States and leading the retreat of the cold war in Asia.

An instant Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS) telephone poll showed that Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi came out ahead in the three-hour debate covering contentious domestic and international issues.

The nationally televised debate, the first of its kind in Japan in 30 years, was held on the eve of the start of official campaigning for the February 18 general election for the House of Representatives. A large portion of the three-hour debate was spent examining Japan's international role, particularly its relationship with the United States.

"Japan is not a 'yes-man' to the U.S.," Kaifu said when he was pressed on how his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) plans to handle demands to open its market to rice and internationalize business practices.

"We are not going to exactly follow what America would like us to do," said Kaifu, president of the LDP, who has pledged to resign if his party loses its majority in the poll. The election is expected to be one of the toughest for the LDP since it came to power 35 years ago.

Kaifu said he expected a solution by March on trade issues being dealt with in so-called structural impediment initiative (SII) talks with Washington. The prime minister also said that the international trend toward disarmament would help Japan play a more active role in establishing a new world order.

Doi retorted that Japan has so far done little to promote detente in Asia, and said Japan places too much emphasis on its relationship with the United States. "I would like to see a Japan whose prime minister is accepted and received in Asia," she said.

Japan is reluctant to assume a high-profile political role in Asia because of Japan's role in World War II, a top aide to Kaifu said recently. Shifting to a more conciliatory tone, Doi announced plans to visit the United States herself following the election to help improve bilateral relations.

Eiichi Nagasue, chairman of the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) said Japan should be more assertive in defining its relationship with the United States, which he said is still colored by Japan's defeat in World War II. The government must act to dissipate growing mistrust in Japan by the United States, he said, suggesting a joint committee be established to help Americans recognize Japan as a "true partner."

Tetsuzo Fuwa, chairman of the Presidium of the Japan Communist Party (JCP), said it is unfair for the U.S. to ask Japan to abide by American business practices, and advocated abolishing the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

Kaifu stood fast by the consumption tax introduced last April, a focal point of the upcoming elections. He said the 3 percent tax was necessary to support welfare programs and prepare for an aging society in which the numbers of elderly are expected to peak early in the next century.

The opposition leaders said the tax is unfair and called for its abolition. The tax was a pivotal issue in polls last summer that saw the LDP lose its majority in the House of Councillors for the first time ever.

The opposition leaders demonstrated less unity on forging a post-election coalition government. Issues of national defense, diplomacy, and nuclear energy have so far prevented the opposition parties from agreeing on a coalition formula.

Ishida said the centrist Komeito, the No. 2 opposition party, would never form coalition with the LDP when the conservatives fail to secure a majority in the lower chamber. Ishida was also reluctant to coalition with other noncommunist opposition parties, pointing the need to reach a policy agreement among them. He said there would emerge a "tripolar" balance of power between the LDP, JSP, and centrist parties.

DSP's Nagasue said a JSP-led opposition platform could be easily forged if the opposition camp seize a majority.

Political reform was also a divisive issue for the opposition parties, who supported restrictions on political donations as long as they do not affect their own source of funds.

Kaifu said that, after "soul-searching" in the aftermath of the Recruit stock-for-political-favors scandal, which affected the LDP's top leadership, the ruling party is prepared to make a more transparent system for political donations. Wearing his trademark polka dot tie, Kaifu took notes throughout the debate at the Japan National Press Club, but later told reporters he had been unable to say everything he wanted to. At one point during the debate Kaifu protested it was unfair that he had only two minutes to respond to points made by the four opposition parties.

Broadcasting stations predicted that millions of viewers would watch the debate, which was broadcast live by four national networks and was rebroadcast during prime time by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK). The TBS telephone poll of 300 people in Tokyo and Osaka showed Doi to be the winner, with 30 percent saying she was the most distinctive debater. Kaifu was second with 24 percent, Ishida scored 6 percent, Fuwa 4 percent, and Nagasue 1.

Eight percent of voters said they had decided to cast their votes differently after watching the debate. Of those, 41

percent chose the JSP, 18 percent the LDP, and 12 percent each the Komeito and JCP.

Newspaper surveys, have shown that the LDP has regained popularity following its defeat last summer, and many analysts are predicting the LDP will win at least a simple majority.

Concession in Trade Dispute With U.S. Planned

OW0502123490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1217 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 5 KYODO—Japan might make a concession in a trade dispute with the United States by allowing one more domestic satellite communications concern to enter the market with a U.S.-made satellite, officials indicated Monday. They said the would-be newcomer, Satellite Japan Corp., might be given a license it failed to obtain five years ago from the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications.

"It's possible we will consider allowing it to enter the market if it has a steady business plan to develop new demand," Yusai Okuyama, director general of the ministry's telecommunications bureau, told a press meeting.

The ministry rejected a license application filed by Satellite Japan, a joint venture led by Sony Corp. and two giant trading houses, Nissho Iwai Corp. and Marubeni Corp., in 1986 on the grounds that it could cause a glut in the satellite communications market. Satellite Japan is still planning to enter the business with the purchase of a satellite made by General Electric Co. (GE) of the United States, following two front runners, Japan Communications Satellite Co. and Space Communications Corp. The company got support Monday also from the ruling Liberal democratic Party as LDP chief policy-maker Hiroshi Mitsuzuka said Japan should buy a U.S. satellite if it is cheap. The remark was apparently aimed at breaking the deadlocked trade talks between Tokyo and Washington over U.S. access to Japan's satellite market.

The U.S. has singled out Japan's satellite market under the so-called Super 301 clause of its 1988 Trade Act for possible retaliation, branding it a market with unfair trade practices.

The two countries have been discussing the subject since last November, but they are still at odds over U.S. access to the Japanese market. During the first round of satellite talks held last November in Tokyo, the U.S. reportedly pointed to GE's hope of selling its product to Satellite Japan.

Some officials in the ministry, however, doubted whether the purchase of a GE-made satellite would help resolve the issue as U.S. criticism has been focused on Japan's plan to develop a communications satellite on its own. Japan plans to launch the CS-4 satellite in 1995, but Washington has argued that the project is designed to develop a domestic satellite industry and shut out foreign competition.

Japan To Ask U.S. To End Shipbuilding Aid

OW0202152390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Japan will call on the United States to scrap subsidies for its shipbuilding industry in bilateral trade talks to be held in conjunction with a meeting under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris on February 13 and 14, Transport Ministry officials said Friday.

The shipbuilding subsidy issue was raised between the U.S. and its four trading partners when the Shipbuilders Council of America last June filed a complaint with the office of U.S. Trade Representative Carla Hills that West Germany, Norway, South Korea, and Japan are engaged in unfair trade practices. The U.S. industry group asked Hills to consider retaliatory trade measures against the four countries under Section 301 of the 1988 U.S. Trade Act, if they refused to reduce their subsidies covering construction and repair of commercial vessels.

Japan will counter the U.S. claim by pointing out in the meeting that the U.S. has lots of its own subsidies, the officials said. They include a requirement for domestic construction of ships that sail on domestic routes, subsidies to cover the difference between the building costs and market prices, and a reserve fund for shipbuilding costs, according to the officials.

Japan To Propose COCOM Embargo Relaxation

OW0202234090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1537 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—The Japanese Government will propose at a mid-February meeting of the COCOM in Paris a gradual relaxation of the strategic goods export embargo against the communist bloc along much the same lines as the already announced U.S. proposal, government sources said Friday.

The sources said the Japanese proposal would call for a shorter screening period for machine tools, personal computers, communications equipment, and two more commodity groups that at present may be shipped to Eastern Europe on an exceptional permit basis. The Japanese proposal will also call for a realistic review of machine tools and some other products currently included in the COCOM's embargo list, the sources said.

The coming COCOM meeting will be held on February 14 and 15 in Paris, attended by representatives of 17 member countries, including Japan, the United States, Britain, and West Germany.

The sources said that at the coming meeting, COCOM, or Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export to

East Bloc Countries, would likely decide to shorten the said screening period for some "strategic products" to be shipped to Eastern Europe on an exceptional permit. The committee will also draw up a work schedule for the coming period, the sources said.

The sources said COCOM would likely defer its decision as to whether the same relaxation measures should be applied to exports of such goods to the Soviet Union until its subsequent meeting in July in Paris.

Political Leaders Welcome Soviet Reform Plan

OW0402112590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1108 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 4 KYODO—Japanese political leaders on Sunday generally welcomed reports that the Soviet Communist Party is preparing to debate giving up its monopoly on power. Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said the introduction of a multiparty system would be a major turning point for Soviet perestroyka (restructuring) efforts.

Kaifu, in a statement delivered by one of his secretaries, said he is paying especial attention to the possible scrapping of the Soviet Constitution's Article 6 which names the Communist Party "the leading and guiding force of Soviet society."

Ichiro Ozawa, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic party (LDP), told reporters that he is looking forward to a successful Soviet reform and that it would be a historic event if it is realized. Ozawa said Japan-Soviet ties would see an improvement if the Soviet Union changes its political and social system.

Japan Socialist Party Chairwoman Takako Doi said she expects Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will further promote perestroyka. Doi, who met reporters during a stumping tour in Kanoya in Kagoshima Prefecture, said the nation's largest opposition party welcomes Gorbachev's initiatives toward social democracy, multiparty system and parliamentary democracy. UNCLAS 4A 3Z/LD

Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida also said in a statement that the Soviet Communist Party is striving for a historic change. The waves of rapid political reforms sweeping through Eastern Europe have come surging upon Moscow, Ishida said.

Japan Communist Party Presidium Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa said he does not think the Soviet reform plan means the collapse of socialism and communism as advocated by Komeito and the Democratic Socialist party.

DSP Chairman Eiichi Nagasue said the battle between democratic socialism and communism is completely settled. The global trend is for the road to democratic socialism, he said.

Japan Criticizes French Comments on Aid Program

OW0202133690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1232 GMT 2 Feb 90

[By Tim Johnson]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—A Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Friday called French President Francois Mitterrand's recent criticism of Japan's aid program "contrary to the facts." The spokesman, Taizo Watanabe, also brushed off France's hardening attitude toward Japan on the economic front as a natural consequence of "an intensification of ties."

Watanabe was responding to Mitterrand's reported remarks in Paris on Wednesday that Japan and the United States, as compared with France, "propose vast (aid) plans but pay out very little."

"Japan could make us cry when it talks about the poor countries," the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE (AFP) reported Mitterrand as wryly telling a gathering of French ambassadors to Africa. The French leader reportedly added that Third World problems could be solved if only Japan and the U.S. matched the efforts of France, which contributes almost 0.7 percent of its gross national product (GNP) to developing countries.

Watanabe said that if the report is accurate, Mitterrand is suffering from a "misunderstanding." "If this statement to the effect that Japan fails to pay out is true, it is contrary to the facts," the Japanese spokesman said. He noted that Japan was the world's second largest disburser of official development assistance (ODA) after the U.S. in 1988, the latest year for which comparisons are available, having given out 9.13 billion dollars to developing countries.

France, meanwhile, disbursed only about 6.87 billion dollars in aid during the same period, Watanabe said, quoting official French Government figures. He noted that the figure includes France's aid to its own overseas territories and prefectures which, if deducted, would bring the amount down to 4.78 billion dollars, or some 0.5 percent of its GNP.

Noting that Mitterrand was directing his remarks to French envoys to African countries, Watanabe said Japan has drastically increased its aid to the region in recent years. In 1988, Africa received some 13.8 percent of Japan's total bilateral aid on a disbursement basis, he explained. But what the spokesman neglected to mention, and the basis for Mitterrand's criticisms, was that Japan's aid as a ratio of its GNP stands at a mere 0.32 percent, as compared with France's 0.72 percent.

Questioned by a French reporter on what appears to be a hardening of France's overall attitude toward Japan, Watanabe said it is a phenomenon which is also being witnessed in Japan's relations with the United States. The French criticisms, he said, come as a natural result of "intensified communication" between Tokyo and Paris, "in which sometimes we hear remarks unpleasant

to our ears and we might say things unpleasant to theirs." "But it is a step in the process of getting to know each other much deeper and intensely, which is to the benefit of both peoples," the spokesman said.

French Minister for European Affairs Edith Cresson blasted Japan late last month for "not playing by the rules" of fair trade, and accused it of "destroying" some sectors of the European economy. Earlier in January, during Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's visit to Paris, Cresson reportedly said Japan "has an absolute will to conquer the world." The Japanese Foreign Ministry reacted strongly to the outspoken minister's comments the previous April that Japan is attempting to "take over" Europe as it has already done an allegedly overly passive United States.

Watanabe said then that responsible public officials should not be "blinded by sterotyped perceptions" or "indulge in emotional outbursts." He warned that such statements could drive Japanese investment out of France into other members of the European Community (EC).

Japanese direct investment in France rose from 330 million dollars in fiscal 1987 to 463 million dollars in fiscal 1988, then leapt to 554 million dollars in the first half of fiscal 1989. Japan's fiscal year begins in April.

French Premier Michel Rocard was quoted as saying during Kaifu's visit that "Japan absolutely does not have the same vision as us," while Mitterrand told his guest that the Japanese market is "impenetrable for reasons belonging to your culture."

During former French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's visit to Tokyo last October, he reportedly said Japan's money would be better invested in "buying a space of freedom" in Eastern Europe than in buying up European art masterpieces.

Watanabe, speaking Friday, called it a waste of time "to exchange bitter words without achieving something." Instead, he said, the two countries should attempt to root out the true source of their problems and resolve them through mutual efforts. Watanabe said criticism of Japan's imbalance of trade with France, which stood at some 4.7 billion dollars in 1988, could be lessened through increasing joint ventures and investment activities, with Japan inviting potential investors from France. "I'm rather optimistic about the future," he said.

Nakayama Hails South African Decision on Mandela

OW0202153890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1434 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama on Friday hailed South Africa's decision to release black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela and legalize the African National Congress (ANC) as a positive step toward ending the evils of apartheid. Nakayama, in a statement issued in his name by the Foreign Ministry, welcomed Pretoria's move as "an important element in the realization of a dialogue between the South African Government and black leaders toward a solution to the problem of apartheid."

The statement followed President F.W. de Klerk's declaration in Cape Town earlier Friday that the ANC was legal again and that Mandela would soon be released unconditionally from 28 years of imprisonment.

"Japan, and for that matter international society, has long been calling on the South African Government to take such measures, and from this perspective we highly appraise this most recent decision," Nakayama's statement said. He said that while the road toward apartheid's dismantling may not be an even one, Japan strongly hopes that all parties will exert maximum efforts for a peaceful solution through negotiation.

Japan has been criticized for maintaining a high level of trade with Pretoria amid international economic sanctions, but it was overtaken in first place by West Germany in 1988 and the value of its trade has since been on a decreasing trend.

While Pretoria appears about to fulfill Japan's calls for a lifting of the state of emergency, a freeing of all political prisoners and legalization of the ANC, Japanese officials said the measures would not translate immediately into a lifting of sanctions or a reestablishment of diplomatic relations. "We have to see that these measures are implemented and how seriously they are going to address these negotiations," said one official. "We would like to see a substantive and concrete improvement in the situation," he said.

Japan, which hosts an ANC bureau in Tokyo, has implemented such sanctions as a ban on direct investment, imports of iron and steel, and exports of computers to apartheid-implementing agencies. Following a government call for self-restraint, bank lending has ceased, officials said, while krugerrand coins, a major foreign currency earner, are boycotted. Diplomatic relations between the two countries have not been resumed since they were cut during World War II. But consular relations are maintained and low-key diplomatic exchanges take place on occasion, such as the unpublicized visit to the Foreign Ministry last May of South African Vice Foreign Minister N.P. Van Heerden.

South Africa Economic Sanctions To Continue

OW0502051590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0418 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 5 KYODO—Japan plans to wait for further signs that South Africa is dismantling its policy of apartheid before lifting economic sanctions, a government spokesman said Monday.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobuo Ishihara welcomed Pretoria's offer to release African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela after 27 years in jail as a "desirable trend, and encouraging news." Asked at a

news conference whether it would lead to a review of economic sanctions, Ishihara said Japan plans to make a response after ascertaining the extent of any relaxation of apartheid policies following Mandela's release.

He declined to say what concrete action Tokyo is waiting for in order to remove restrictions on direct investment, imports of iron and steel, and exports of computers to government agencies charged with enforcing apartheid. The Japanese government has also called on the business community to exert self-restraint on trade.

South African President F.W. de Klerk lifted a 30-year-ban on the ANC black nationalist movement Friday. No date has been set for Mandela's release, but in his speech before parliament de Klerk said the ANC leader would be freed soon.

Opposition Shaky, Kaifu 'Less Than Convincing'

OW0202190490 Tokyo KYODO in English 1551 GMT 2 Feb 90

[By Jerome Sayre]

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Opposition party leaders showed the shakiness of their coalition vision Friday but scored points separately with straight talk that contrasted with vague promises by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa first proposed a round table debate among Kaifu and opposition leaders late last week, hoping to highlight the contrasting platforms among coalition hopefuls. The ruling party hoped to center discussions around nuclear power, policies toward the two Koreas, and security to highlight the differences between the left-leaning Japan Socialist Party [JSP] and the more centrist Komeito and Democratic Socialist Party [DSP].

"The aim of the LDP was to show the cracks in the opposition's cooperative action," according to Meiji University political scientist Kaoru Okano. And opposition ambivalence toward the proposed JSP-led coalition surfaced despite the broader agenda set by the Japan National Press Club, sponsors of the debate.

Eiji Yamamoto, a professor at Tokyo Women's University, called statements by DSP head Tiichi Nagasue forseeing an "overnight" unification o. he opposition coalition platforms in the event of a LDP s "reckless." Nagasue's optimism for the opposition alition contrasted with the position of Komeito leader Koshiro Ishida who said a "tripolar" balance of power among the LDP, JSP, and the centrist parties might be the only option if opposition parties couldn't come to agreement on policies.

Doi, for her part, noticeably steered away from divisive queries on security, preferring instead to emphasize the shared aims of the opposition parties.

But if the debate added to voter doubts about the opposition, Kaifu was less than convincing as LDP spokesman. Kaifu's pledges of "efforts" toward meaningful political reform were "especially lacking in persuasiveness," said Yamamoto. Political critic Masaya Ito compared the LDP leader's defense to that in Diet question-and-answer sessions. "He doesn't have his own opinions," Ito said.

A lack of concreteness characterized many of Kaifu's responses, drawing disappointed comments from journalists on the panel. "Abstract content... You can't call it a policy argument," noted writer Tomoko Yamazaki.

But critics praised Doi and Japan Communist Party [JCP] Presidium chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa for their rebuttals and logical arguments.

One quick poll of political commentators scoring the debate gave Doi 30 percent of the first place vote with 24 percent for Kaifu.

The three hours of policy wrangling may have little effect on the election, in the opinion of Okano. "There is no meaning in this debate" for the public, he said.

Opposition Leaders Present Coalition Options

OW0202154190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1419 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 2 KYODO—Debating Japanese political party leaders Friday admitted to several post-election coalition options built around common policies and reflecting numbers of seats gained in the coming general election for the House of Representatives.

The three-hour debate, sponsored by the Japan National Press Club, brought Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who is concurrently president of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), together with the leaders of the four major opposition parties to field questions from a selected panel of journalists.

Japan Socialist Party (JSP) Chairwoman Takako Doi proposed no new initiatives to resolve policy differences among the noncommunist opposition parties seeking to form a coalition government if the ruling LDP loses its absolute majority in the February 18 general election.

Policies toward the Japan-U.S. security alliance, the Korean peninsula, and nuclear power plants separate the JSP from the centrist Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP). A fourth coalition partner, the smallest United Social Democratic Party, was not represented in the forum.

Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida, posing a worst case scenario, said that a "tripolar" balance of power among the LDP, JSP and centrist parties might be unavoidable in the event policy differences blocked an opposition coalition government. "Policies are the life of political parties," Ishida said.

Senior LDP member Shin Kanemaru suggested the possibility of the LDP's "partial alliance" with opposition parties several times last month despite statements by the party's Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa ruling out a coalition with either the Komeito or the DSP.

DSP Chairman Eiichi Nagasue, expressing greater optimism about a successful coalition, said the parties would clear up their policy differences "overnight" if they gained a majority of seats. The smaller DSP now holds 25 seats in the lower house, giving it less clout in post-election coalition dealing than the Komeito, presently with 54 seats.

Nagasue, in a post-debate statement, stressed that the alliance was not an election strategy but could lead to a viable administration with a united platform. But Doi, terming the four-party tie-up "a people's, not a party, coalition," focused on cooperation on shared positions on the consumption tax and social issues while skirting questions about differences with her centrist partners on defense and security issues.

Criticism of the vagueness of coalition commitment came from both the LDP and the Japan Communist Party. Kaifu mocked Nagasue's "overnight" optimism, comparing it to "a student cramming the night before an examination."

JCP Presidium Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa, while critical, suggested his party could cooperate in a coalition focusing on the abolition of the consumption tax, political reform, and the rejection of rice import liberalization.

Strong objections from the DSP have contributed to the exclusion of the JCP from opposition cooperation for almost a decade. The opposition majority in the upper house is reliant on the JCP and several mini-parties.

The four opposition parties first launched their alliance effort in the aftermath of the LDP defeat in the upper house elections last July, seeking to create a unified policy platform. JSP moves toward the center have eliminated some gaps, but others still remain.

Surveys conducted in late January showed almost half of the nation's voters expect the LDP to be forced to share power after the election.

YOMIURI—LDP Likely To Win Majority

OW0502025490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0210 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tokyo, Feb. 5 KYODO—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) is headed toward winning a simple majority in the upcoming House of Representatives election on February 18, although it faces a very close contest, according to a survey released Monday by the daily YOMIURI SHIMBUN.

The LDP has endorsed 325 of the 953 candidates from the nation's 130 constituencies, three more than it fielded in the last lower house election in 1986. Conservative independents likely to back the LDP have a good chance of winning in more than 15 constituencies, the survey said. The survey was conducted immediately after the official start Saturday of election campaigning to contest the 512 seats in the powerful lower house. Of the 325 LDP official candidates, less than 220 are likely to be elected and another 80 LDP candidates are contesting a close race.

The survey suggests that only five of the 15 constituencies where the LDP took all seats in 1986 are assured of the same outcome, while in the remaining 10, including the traditional LDP strongholds in Aomori No. 1 and Hiroshima No. 2 districts, an LDP victory is not assured.

The leading opposition Japan Socialist Party (JSP), which forced the LDP to lose its 34-year majority in the House of Councillors election last summer, is likely to increase its lower house seats to over 100 from 83 it held when the Diet was dissolved on January 24, YOMIURI said.

The survey indicates that of the 148 JSP candidates, about 80 are assured of retaining their seats while 40 of the remaining candidates will win after close contests.

The centrist Komeito, which held 54 seats at the time of dissolution, has fielded 58 candidates with 50 expected to win. The Japan Communist Party, which had 26 seats, has endorsed 131 candidates. About 20 show promise and 25 others are fighting a close match.

The Democratic Socialist Party, with 25 seats before dissolution, has fielded 44 candidates, its smallest number since its founding, with only about 20 showing good signs of winning. The United Social Democratic Party has run just six candidates in an effort to keep the four seats held at the time of the dissolution.

The survey predicted that 305 of the 953 candidates are assured of their seats, accounting for about 60 percent of the 512-seat lower house, with about 360 candidates waging close races for the remaining 207 seats.

North Korea

Cheney Troop Reduction Plan Termed 'Intrigue'

SK0402085990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0836 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney, in his defense report for fiscal 1991 at Congress, contended that the political and military domination over South Korea and its occupation by U.S. forces are "continually contributing to stability" in this region. He brought forward a plan of "dismantling" some air bases in South Korea and described it as a "step toward detente."

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today views this as an indication that there is no change in the U.S.

imperialists' Korea policy and they invariably pursue the policy of showdown of strength.

Although they seemingly claim "peace" and "detente," they, in actuality, resort to the strategy of strength aimed at keeping hold on South Korea permanently as their colony, military base and nuclear forward base through the fixation of Korea's division and attacking the DPRK with South Korea as a foothold, the news analyst says, and goes on:

The tense situation prevails on the Korean peninsula entirely because they are ceaselessly reinforcing armed forces and intensifying war exercises in South Korea against the DPRK, still failing to renounce their policy of occupation there.

Cheney's "reduction" plan is not intended to ease the situation on the Korean peninsula but to tone down the voices in the United States and other parts of the world calling for U.S. troop pullout from South Korea.

Behind the facade of "military cuts" they scheme to leave intact their main combatant units, nuclear and other sophisticated destruction weapons, further "modernize" the puppet army's equipment and keep their naval armada in the sea around Korea at all times. This is, in essence, nothing but an intrigue to reinforce the U.S. forces present in South Korea qualitatively while pretending to reduce them quantitatively.

More on 454th MAC Meeting in Panmunjom

SK0302025690 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2300 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] On 2 February, the 454th meeting of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] was held in Panmunjom upon our side's request.

At the meeting, our side totally exposed the concrete barriers, built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line [MDL], through videotaped materials and pictures, and strongly demanded that the enemy side remove them at an early date.

First of all, Major General Choe Ui-ung, senior member of our side, stressed that this year, the first year of the nineties, the great leader put forward a new reunification formula for demolishing barriers dividing the North and the South and realizing free travel and full-scale opening of the North and the South to overcome obstacles and difficulties in the way of national reunification and to effect a drastic change in solving the problem of reunification.

Maj Gen Choe continued: At present, the world's peace-loving people as well as the Korean people, who ardently support and welcome this formula for reunification, look forward to the historic day when the barriers of division will have been removed and free travel and full-scale opening will have been realized in Korea.

However, the splittist elements at home and abroad who do not want the reunification of Kore are frantically maneuvering to block the path leading to reunification at any cost.

Saying that the truth must be clarified at the meeting, since the U.S. side tried to deceive the world's public by saying there is no concrete wall in the area south of the MDL, the senior member of our side presented videotaped materials and pictures showing the concrete wall built in Paju, Yonchon, Cholwon, Inje, Yanggu, and Kosong Counties adjacent to the MDL.

The senior member of our side stated that th video tape and pictures show that the concrete wall built in the area south of the MDL stretches along approximately 600-ri length of the MDL across mountains, rivers, and fields, dividing the country into halves from the east to the west side; he asked the U.S. side how dare it say that there is no concrete wall.

The senior member from our side said that from the time the South Korean persons in authority began to build the concrete wall at the instigation of the U.S., our side has repeatedly demanded that the construction of the wall be stopped. The senior member of our side continued: At many meetings, including the 393d and the 395th MAC meetings, we have already strongly protested and denounced the U.S. side for severing our country and building the barriers of division and demanded that it stop doing so.

However, the U.S. side at last egged the South Korean persons in authority on, to build the 600-ri-long barriers of division in the area south of the MDL, in defiance of the world's unbiased public opinion and denunciation, as they continued to cling to the maneuvers to perpetuate two Koreas.

Showing the 10-meter long picture of the concrete wall at first hand, the senior member of our side noted in detail how the wall was turned into a barrier of division and confrontation to divide the country and the nation into two forever, and to incite North-South confrontation.

Saying that the concrete wall completely blocked three railway lines, four rivers, and 150 wide and narrow streets, all of which linked the North to the South, and severed the artery of our nation, he strongly denounced the splittists for having completely severed the artery of the homogeneous nation, which has lasted for thousands of years, by building an artificial concrete wall such as does not exist on any country's border, and for having tried to divide the North and the South and to make them confront each other.

He further said: Precisely because of this wall of division, the same nation and fellow countrymen have not visited each other as they wished to in their country and land, nor have the parents, brothers, and sisters who love each other been able to know each other's fate. It was because of non other than this cursed concrete wall that Rev Mun Ik-hwan and student Yim Su-kyong could not come to

the North, which is within a stone's throw, except by way of a tens-of-thousands-of-miles journey. It was also because of the barriers that young student Yim Su-kyong had to ardently cry for the path in Panmunjom to be opened so that she could return to the bosom of her beloved parents and fellow students.

The bitter reality, in which they were brought to trial and sentenced to heavy penalties only because they had visited the North, their country and land, and they had brothers in the North, the same nation, makes people acutely feel anew how high and thick the barriers dividing the North and the South are.

Saying that it is only too obvious that without removing the concrete wall of confrontation and division, free travel and full-scale opening cannot be realized nor can the reunification of the country be accomplished, the senior member from our side stressed that herein lies the reason the problem of pulling down the concrete barriers is an important one which must first be solved between the North and the South, and why the position toward the problem shows whether division and confrontation are sought, or whether dialogue and reunification are desired. He demanded that measures to remove the concrete wall be taken at once.

The U.S. side, which could not deny the existence of the concrete wall in the area south of the MDL because of the pictures and videotaped materials, spun out all types of excuses to deny the fact that the wall is a symbol of division and confrontation, while admitting the existence of the wall.

Strongly refuting the U.S. unjust assertions, the senior member from our side repeatedly demanded that the senior members of the two sides directly inspect the concrete wall with domestic and foreign reporters in Panmunjom to see how it has become a symbol of national division and confrontation.

However, the U.S. side failed to accede to our demands to the end.

The senior member of our side stated that the reason the U.S. side cannot respond to our demand is that the concrete wall in the area south of the MDL has become a symbol of division and confrontation.

Noting that the existence of the concrete wall in addition to the MDL is attributable to the United States, the senior member from our side continued: If the United States had not occupied half of our country and had not exercised the policy of division, our nation, which had lived in harmony while taking pride in a long history and culture, would not have been divided in two and both the MDL and the concrete wall severing the 3,000-ri fatherland would not have come into being.

When the North-South Joint Statement was announced in July 1972 and aspirations for reunification grew, the United States, alarmed by this, led the splittist elements in South Korea to the path of anticommunist fascistization, and finally made them declare the fabrication of two Koreas their policy in June 1973.

The concrete wall was conceived precisely from this, and the United States spared no financial and material assistance in building the barriers of division.

In fiscal 1980, when the building of the concrete wall reached the final stage, the United States threw as much as 362.75 million dollars into South Korea. With this political, military, and financial assistance of the United States, the concrete wall was built.

As the steel-reinforced concrete wall was built in the area south of the MDL, another wall of division was added to the artificial MDL in the middle of the Korean peninsula.

Our people do not want division. Neither can they tolerate the fact that this miserable situation today, in which father confronts son and elder brother confronts younger brother, pointing a gun at the other side across the MDL, can last even a day longer. It is only a handful of splittists and the United States that want this.

Having warmly welcomed the fact that the barriers of division were opened in another country, why does the United States object to removing the concrete wall in South Korea, where the U.S. troops are stationed? This clearly shows that the U.S. remarks about the reunification of Korea or dialogue are all lies; that the United States has not, indeed, given up the policy of division and confrontation; and that it still adheres to the maneuvers to concoct two Koreas.

No force can divide the single nation forever and bisect the territory of the single country. However frantically the splittists at home and abroad run wild, our nation and territory were, are, and will be one.

The senior member of our side emphasized that the U.S. side must be clearly aware of our people's will, discard the policy of two Koreas, and take practical measures to remove the concrete wall, a symbol of national division and North-South confrontation.

During the MAC meeting, pictures stretching 20 meters, which show the concrete wall the South Korean puppets built in Paju, Yonchon, Cholwon, Inje, Yanggu, and Kosong Counties, areas south of the MDL, at the instigation of the U.S. imperialists, were exhibited, and videotaped materials were screened outside the meeting hall.

Numerous domestic and foreign reporters from the South side, members of the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission, and domestic and foreign reporters from our side carefully watched the pictures and videotaped materials showing the concrete wall, an outcome of the maneuvers of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to concoct two Koreas.

Through the videotaped materials and pictures, they said that it is only too obvious that the concrete wall exists. Also, they hardly held back their indignation against the splittists who built the concrete of division and confrontation.

During the meeting, the senior member from our side sent a telephone message saying that the reporters from the South side who are authorized to enter Panmunjom are allowed to enter the area of our side across the MDL to inspect the concrete wall, a symbol of division and confrontation, and their personal safety is guaranteed. He demanded that the U.S. side take measures necessary to this end.

However, the U.S. side did not permit the domestic and foreign reporters from the South side in Panmunjom to cross the MDL and thus, their inspection of the concrete wall was not realized in the end.

Intrusion of South Ship Into North Reported

SK0202151090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1500 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 2 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppets today committed such a grave military provocation as illegally infiltrating a warship deep into the territorial waters off the West coast of the DPRK.

Between 10:42 and 11:17 this day, the South Korean puppets abruptly infiltrated one warship based on Taechong Island deep into the territorial waters West of Changsangot on the West Sea of the DPRK for the purpose of openly committing a hostile act in broad daylight.

As a patrol craft of the Navy of the Korean People's Army which had been on a routine duty to firmly defend the territorial waters of the socialist homeland went into action, it hastily fled southward.

This reckless military provocation is a deliberate one to further aggravate the situation in our country as this was committed at a time when the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are creating a terror-ridden atmosphere of war in all parts of South Korea while making haste with the preparations for the aggressive "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises.

They had better act with discretion, looking squarely at the grave situation prevailing on the Korean peninsula due to their moves to start a war against the North.

No's Statement on Labor Movement Denounced

SK0102051090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0452 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u group called a meeting of chiefs of puppet labour agencies on January 29, according to a report.

Branding the struggle of workers for vital rights as "an illegal act", it threatened that "official power will be quickly hurled against it" and that "chiefs of agencies who connive at illegal labour disputes will be severely reprimanded."

Screaming that disputes would be protracted at foreign companies, it said that it would strengthen "examination of the tendency of labour-management relationship" in order to prevent it.

This is a vicious move to crush the struggle of workers for the right to existence and democratic rights and obliterate the labour movement which is gaining strength.

There are signs of a rising tide of the labour movement in South Korea with the recent formation of the "National Council of Trade Unions" ("Chonnohyop").

Dismayed by this, the fascist clique issued a repressive order and revealed its criminal intention to intensify suppression by bayonet for the purpose of stifling the labour movement at any cost.

The repressive moves of the No Tae-u group against the labor movement will only touch off a wave of anger among workers.

CPRF Says South Misleading Public Opinion

SK0502105290 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1015 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u fascist clique must immediately stop the unjustifiable trial of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and his companion, unconditionally and promptly release them, abrogate the "National Security Law" and other fascist laws and immediately cease from suppressing people of broad strata who demand wide-range dialogue for reunification on the pretext of "unified channel of dialogue," demands the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] in a statement today.

Recalling that the South Korean fascist clique demanded life imprisonment for Rev. Mun and his companion, incriminating their visit to Pyongyang, the statement brands this as an anti-national, anti-reunification fascist act of infringing upon the nation's desire for reunification and an act of human butchery designed to murder Rev. Mun in prison.

No sooner had the South Korean authority voiced "welcome" to the DPRK's proposal on free travel and complete opening between the North and South than they demanded capital punishments for the persons who had been to Pyongyang, the statement says, and goes on: This confirms that their talk is a lie to mislead public opinion at home and abroad.

The heavy penalties by the South Korean puppets for Rev. Mun and his companion are intended to dampen the ever growing desire of South Korean people for reunification, threaten the democratic forces which call for reunification and bring North-South confrontation to

a more acute phase. This reveals their fundamental stand for obstruding [as received] national reunification and creating "two Koreas."

It is an anachronistic daydream to try to dampen the people's sentiments for reunification by violence and perpetuate national division by confrontation and war rackets, the statement says, adding: If the South Korean military fascist clique defiantly kept Rev. Mun and other envoys of reunification behind the bars despite our warnings, they would face stronger condemnation from the entire fellow countrymen and the world people and a stern judgement by history.

South Tourist Agency Workers Defect to North

SK0302103090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1022 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—Kim Won-sok, director of the Kuro and Yongma Tourist Agencies of the South Korean Tourist Company Ltd., and Yu Sol-cha, a clerk of the Yongma Tourist Agency, came over to the northern half of Korea on February 2.

Kim Won-sok was born in Towon-ri, Pyongchon-myon, Chonwon County, South Chungchong Province. After graduating from a higher agriculture school, he served in the puppet army and then worked as an executive at tourist companies in Seoul. From five or six years ago he ran the private Kuro and Yongma Tourist Agencies.

Yu Sol-cha, born in Pusu-ri, Sinpyong-myon, Tangjin County, South Chungchong Province, graduated from Sukmyong Women's University and worked as a clerk at the Yongma Tourist Agency.

Explaining the motive of his coming over to the North, Kim Won-sok said while running the tourist business with difficulty he always felt discontent with the unjustifiable behavior of the South Korean authorities who were interested only in power and money. Moreover, I learned from those who had been to the North that the anti-communist propaganda of the South Korean authorities was a sheer lie, and then I did not want to live any longer in the South Korean society where elementary human liberties and rights are trampled underfoot and falsehood and deception prevail, and began longing for the North, he added.

He said he had been looking for a chance of coming over to the North for three years and finally came here with Yu Sol-cha, seizing an opportunity while on a trip abroad.

Very satisfied with their successful coming over to the North, they manifested their resolution to work as hard as they could for national reunification and socialist construction in the future.

MINJU CHOSON Deplores Mun Imprisonment

SK0302101690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today strongly denounces the criminal act of the No Tae-u fascist clique in demanding life imprisonment for Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Yu Won-ho at the final trial on their appeal at the puppet high court on January 29 after sentencing both of them to a prison term of ten years in October last year on groundless charges.

Viewing this as something unprecedented in court history, the news analyst says:

This murderous trial of the fascist hangmen is a most high-handed violation of human dignity and democratic rights and an intolerable challenge to human conscience and humanitarianism.

It was an illegal act to throw into prison such patriots as Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Yu Won-ho who called for the reunification of the country by invoking the "National Security Law", a fascist law, and put them on trial, and it is entirely unjust to have demanded life imprisonment for them at the final trial on their appeal by inflicting groundless charges on them.

Worse still, the fascist clique keep in a cold prison cell Rev. Mun who, in his advanced age of seventies, cannot even move his body, his health shattered during his prison life for nearly ten months, and demanded life imprisonment for him on additional false charges. This is, in fact, a shocking act of murder to make him wither away in prison.

While releasing the healthy chief culprits in the "Fifth Republic legacies" on "bail," the No Tae-u group is trying to kill in prison Rev. Mun Ik-hwan who went back after doing good things for reunification and is exposed to threat to his life in his prison life for months. This is an unpardonable crime.

The No group must withdraw at once the unjust penalties demanded for Rev. Mun and his companion and set them free unconditionally and immediately, looking straight at the reality.

Chondaehyop Chairman Yim Chong-suk Starts Fast

SK0302060290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—Im Chong-sok, chairman of "The National Council of Student Representatives" (Chondaehyop) who was taken into custody on the charge of violation of the notorious "National Security Law", started a fast on January 17 in protest against the suppression of dissident figures by the fascist clique, according to the South Korean paper HANGYORE SINMUN January 21.

Pointing out that the fascist clique forced 14 dissidents who had not even met him to report themselves at police

while investigating him, he denounced this as an act to "suppress the labour and dissident movements".

Before beginning the fast Im Chong-sok refused to respond to the interrogation by the prosecution from January 15 in protest against the scheme of the fascist clique to suppress the dissident camp by connecting it with the struggle of "Chondaehyop".

NODONG SINMUN on South Party Merger

SK0402085090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—The "Democratic Justice Party" held the "sixth extraordinary party convention" on February 1 and adopted a resolution on the merger of three parties—the "Democratic Justice Party," the "Reunification Democratic Party" and the "New Democratic Republican Party".

No Tae-u in his "address" read by "Chairman" Pak Tae-chun said that the decision to dissolve the "DJP" and merge the three parties is "a save-the-nation decision" and it "conforms to the request of the nation and the time" and that the merger of three parties "put a period to the anti-democratic era, leaving no target to be overthrown and cause of a struggle". Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today says that this is a crafty trick to cover up the criminal purpose of the "political restructuring" through the merger of the three parties and evade the spearhead of attack of the people.

The "political restructuring", the news analyst notes, is a reactionary collusion of the No Tae-u military fascist band which finds it impossible to maintain the present ruling system or remain in power in the next term under the signboard of the "DJP" which should have been liquidated with the "Fifth Republic" for its long string of crimes and ultra-right conservative forces which have turned against the people, urged by wild ambition for power.

The merger of three parties is no more than the second "Yusin" coup, a move designed to turn the present four-party structure into a bipartisan structure for a one-party solo and thus prop up the tottering colonial military fascist system of the U.S. imperialists and build a system for long-term office.

It is ridiculous for those who have changed the political tool of four-party structure, an offspring of "elections", without asking the will of the people to talk about "the requirement of the people".

The "National Alliance of the Movement for the Nation and Democracy" (Chonminnyon) branded the merger of three parties on the assumption of "parliamentary cabinet system" as a "coup that has reduced the people to a political bridesman", which is a total denial of No Tae-u's concept of "people's requirement".

A more vicious scheme lurks behind the claim of the traitor No that "an era of democracy" has come and non-democratic forces to be overthrown have disappeared with the merger of the three parties.

The target of overthrow for democracy has been outlined more sharply, far from being liquidated

The patriotic democratic forces of South Korea will answer the suppression by the reactionaries glued together with a more stubborn struggle and, in the long run, bring the military fascist group to destruction.

Commentary Denounces South Realignment

SK0402114190 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 0049 GMT 2 Feb 90

[NODONG SINMUN 2 Feb commentary: "Confession of the Behind-the-Scenes Manipulator"]

[Text] In a meeting with the chairman of the Democratic Justice Party [DJP] a few days ago, [Donald] Gregg, U.S. ambassador to South Korea, raved that a political realignment is rather inevitable in view of the political situation in South Korea.

Gregg, governor-general of the colony, made remarks in support of the farce of the political realignment through the merger of the three parties of the DJP, the Reunification Democratic Party, and the New Democratic Republican Party. This reveals that the behind-the-scenes manipulator is none other than the United States.

Maintaining the pro-U.S. military fascist dictatorship in South Korea is a requirement of the U.S. imperialists' policy of aggression. For approximately 40 years, since the U.S. imperialists occupied South Korea by force, whenever the dictatorial forces were faced with crises before the people' strong struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification, they rigged up farces of political realignment according to this requirement by picking up new stooges of the colony and by inveigling and manipulating them.

As the mass struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification is rapidly growing in strength, the colonial dictatorial rule under the disguise of the Fifth Republic is faced with a crisis. Therefore, the United States is trying to assuage the entire country and cope with this situation by rigging up political realignment, with a great alliance of conservative forces as a pivot.

It was the United States that rigged up the Sixth Republic dictatorial regime of the No Tae-u clique by means of splitting the democratic forces when the forces for independence, democracy, and reunification were rapidly growing in strength in South Korea after the June democratic resistance. And the United States was the backstage manipulator that preached a ruling-opposition compromise through a great conservative coalition when an unstable political situation featuring a minority ruling party and large opposition forces was created as a result of the National Assembly elections in April 1988 and when this led to the unilateral settling of the problem of

the liquidation of the Fifth Republic legacies through a grand ruling-opposition compromise toward the end of last year.

The farce of the political realignment now under way in South Korea through the merger of three political parties is a product of the crisis of the colonial military fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group. Thus, it is one more political coup to maintain and prolong the military fascist rule by rallying ultra right-wing reactionary forces.

Recently in South Korea, responding to the trends of the times for independence and democracy, people from all walks of life have staunchly fought under the anti-U.S. banner of antifascism, democracy, and reunification of the fatherland.

In particular, this year, as during the last year, the colonial fascist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u ring is being shaken to the root by the moves to found a progressive party in South Korea and to form the National Council of Trade Unions for workers; by the teachers' struggle to defend the National Teachers Trade Union; by a new launch of dissident organizations; and by the people's movement against the United States and for independence, which are briskly being launched with the resolution to indefatigably make a breakthrough for reunification in the 1990's.

Under these circumstances, the U.S. imperialists, who cannot maintain their colonial domination with only the No Tae-u ring, which has lost the people's support, are trying to assuage the unstable situation in South Korea and to safely maintain their colonial military fascist rule by bringing together right-wing conservative forces with the current No Tae-u military fascist group as a pivot.

The U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u clique are planning to suppress the forces for the nation, democracy, and reunification through the allied forces of the ultra right-wing reactionaries; to achieve the stability of the political situation; and to build a system for the long-term office of a single party after the political realignment. However, developments in South Korea indicate that their attempt cannot be realized easily.

Now, people from all walks of life and personages of all strata in South Korea regard the political realignment through the merger of the three parties as a brazen-faced political coup that camouflages the military fascist forces as conservative forces, and as a challenge to national sovereignty. Enraged at the fact that the backstage manipulator of the great alliance of conservative forces is the United States attempting to perpetually dominate South Korea, they are turning out in the struggle to foil and smash the farce of the political realignment.

The farce of the political realignment, rigged up through U.S. imperialist behind-the-scenes manipulation, will further deepen confusion, because it is a product of the crisis the colonial fascist rule is faced with.

Only when the U.S. imperialists take their hands of interference off South Korea can the way be paved for sociopolitical development and political stabilization be realized.

WFTU Publishes 'Solidarity With Korea' Tract

SK0302215890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1501 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—The World Federation of Trade Unions [WFTU] published the bulletin "Solidarity With Korea" No.1.

The bulletin says that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address put forward a new epochal proposal for national reunification and elaborates on its content.

In an article headlined "Peace, Democracy and Human Rights Must Be Guaranteed in Practice, Not in Words" the bulletin exposes the crimes of the U.S. imperialists in aggravating tension on the Korean peninsula and violating democracy and human rights in South Korea for more than 40 years.

It condemns the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique for resorting to separatist moves, remaining dead set against Korea's reunification.

Refuting the claim of the South Korean puppet clique that "there is no concrete wall", the bulletin says the wall really exists in the area of the South side. It carries materials proving this.

Compiled in it are detailed data on South Korean workers' wretched lot and their struggle for the improvement of their life.

Pointing out that the South Korean economy is a colonial economy completely dependent on foreign capital, it denounces the South Korean puppet clique's schemes to stifle the workers' struggle for the right to existence and democracy. The World Federation of Trade Unions will extend more active support and encouragement to the South Korean workers' struggle, declares the bulletin.

Soviet Committee Supports Reunification Proposal

SK0502052290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0506 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee recently issued a statement in support of the DPRK's new reunification proposal.

The new reunification proposal put forward by Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in his New Year address is a new important initiative which proves the consistency and purposefulness of the peace-loving line of the DPRK for national reunification.

The Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee expresses firm solidarity for the efforts of the DPRK to realize negotiations between the North and the South for the reunification of the country and calls upon all the people who value the destiny of the Korean people to lend an ear to the appeal of the DPRK and extend support to it, stressed the statement.

Paper Notes Perestroyka 'Successes'

SK0502060390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0527 GMT 5 Feb 90

["Major Milestone of Korean-Soviet Friendship—KCNA Headline]

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—The signing of the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics 35 years ago marked a major milestone in strengthening and developing the relations of scientific and technological cooperation between the two peoples, who have developed the cooperative relations in the spirit of the agreement in this field, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The Korean and Soviet peoples, it notes, have excellent traditions in developing friendly and cooperative relations in the protracted common struggle against imperialism.

The traditional Korean-soviet friendship has been expanded and developed in various domains in the spirit areed upon at top-level meetings and talks held in Moscow in 1986.

The article further says:

Today the Soviet people are registering successes in their efforts to deepen perestroyka for socialist restructuring and step up socio-economic development in accordance with the decisions of the 27th Congress of the Communist Party and the 19th all-union conference of the party.

The Soviet Party and Government are making energetic efforts in the international arena for the elimination of nuclear and chemical weapons, drastic cutback of conventional weapons and building of a world free from war.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice over the achievements of the fraternal Soviet people.

The Korean people believe that the Korean-Soviet friendly and cooperative relations will be consolidated and developed further still in conformity with the demands of developing revolution in the two countries and the cause of peace in Asia and the rest of the world in the spirit agreed upon at the top-level meetings of the two countries.

Friendship, Cooperation With USSR Hailed

SK0402085490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0830 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON in a signed article today says the signing of the Korean-Soviet agreement on scientific-technological cooperation marked an epochal occasion in further cementing the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the peoples of the two countries in the field of science and technology.

Noting that in the past period since the signing of the agreement the Korean and Soviet peoples who have traditional friendly relations have closely cooperated with each other in their interests and in keeping with the requirements of the cause of socialism and communism, the article says:

Today the Soviet people are developing in depth Perestroyka for socialist renovation and vigorously pushing ahead with the work for accelerating the socio-economic development.

The Soviet party and government are making strenuous efforts to eliminate nuclear and chemical weapons in the international arena, drastically reduce conventional weapons and build a world free from war.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice at the achievements of the fraternal Soviet people and express support and solidarity for the Soviet Government's efforts to defend world peace and security.

The Korean people who set store by friendship and unity with the Soviet people will make all efforts in the future, too, to further expand and develop the friendly and cooperative relations between them in various domains including science and technology.

Believing that the relations between the peoples of the two countries will consolidate and develop through the common struggle for the victory of the cause of peace, socialism and communism, they wish the Soviet people greater success in their struggle for the development and prosperity of the country.

Trade Protocol Signed With Bulgaria

SK0302061690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—A 1990 protocol on the mutual delivery of commodities and payments between the governments of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Bulgarian People's Republic was signed in Sofia on February 1.

It was signed by head of the DPRK Government trade delegation Kim Chin-sok, vice-minister of foreign trade, and Krustyu Popov, vice-minister of foreign economic relations of Bulgaria.

WPK Congratulates Bulgarian Party Leader

SK0302152090 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1505 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] today sent a message of greetings to Aleksander Lilov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

The message says:

We extend warm congratulations to you upon your election as chairman of the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Communist Party.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between our two parties and two countries will develop in the interest of the cause of peace and socialism and wish you many successes in your responsible work.

Syrian Leader Sends Message to Kim Il-song

SK0502051490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0456 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, received a solidarity message from Dawud Baz, chairman of the National Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon, supporting the new proposal for national reunification put forward by him in his New Year Address for this year.

The message dated January 17 expresses support to the new proposal to pull down the concrete wall and reunify the country which was put forward by Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year Address, and firm belief that Korea's reunification would be realized in accordance with a law of history.

Papers Hail Namibian Independence Day

NODONG SINMUN on Greetings

SK0502060590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0532 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—The Korean people sincerely rejoice at the proclamation of the 21st of March as day of independence of Namibia and extend warm felicitations and greetings to the Namibian people, says NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

Noting that the Namibian people have at last realized their cherished desire to build up a genuine independent and sovereign state, the article says this is not only their great auspicious event and victory but also a common victory of the peoples of all other African countries and the world progressives who have struggled side by side with them for the complete liberation of Africa and a great encouragement to the oppressed peoples in their struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism.

It is because they have fought a valiant struggle with the conviction of victory and confidence in the future that the Namibian people could put an end to the 70 odd year long illegal occupation and colonial rule by the South African racists, the article stresses.

Noting that a broad avenue for building a new life has been opened for the Namibian people, it says:

Sam Nujoma, president of the South West Africa People's Organization, said the Namibian state after independence would set it forth as its major fighting tasks to liquidate the old leftovers of the racist rule, free the people from exploitation, oppression and poverty and build a free country where all people would live on an equal footing. He also made it plain that Namibia would be "a frontline state," enter the organization of African unity, the United Nations and the Non-aligned Movement and support the South African people in their struggle for the abolition of apartheid in the international arena.

The process of independence in Namibia proved once again the truth of history that no force on earth can block the road ahead of the people who rise in struggle for liberation and independence and that their struggle is sure to emerge victorious.

The Korean people have always supported the Namibian people's struggle for the liberation and sovereignty of the country, and there will be no change in this stand of ours in the future, too.

MINJU CHOSON on Solidarity

SK0402091390 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0849 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—MINJU CHOSON today comes out with a signed article on Namibia which will proclaim independence from South Africa on March 21.

The proclamation of the day of independence at the Namibian constituent assembly is of weighty significance in the development of this country's history, the article says, and continues:

This is a shining fruition of the protracted struggle of the Namibian people for freedom and independence and successful realisation of their noble desire to build a happy life in a new independent and sovereign society.

The Namibian people are now fully supporting the resolution of the constituent assembly and are replete with conviction of the future and firm determination.

The Korean people sincerely rejoice at the victory of the South West Africa People's Organization and voice support and solidarity for its just cause.

The proclamation of the day of independence at the constituent assembly will inspire the Namibian people more powerfully in their struggle to build a worthwhile,

new life as the proud people of an independent state and as the master of their own destiny.

The developments in Namibia clearly show that it is irresistible that imperialism, colonialism and racism perish and the people's cause of independence emerges triumphant.

Niger President Supports Kim's New Proposal

SK0502054290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0517 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 5 (KCNA)—Niger President Ali Saibou fully supported the new proposal for national reunification put forward by the great leader President Kim Il-song in his New Year address as a realistic one to achieve the peaceful reunification of Korea, when he met with the DPRK ambassador to his country on February 2.

President Kim Il-song clarified in his New Year address that the concrete wall must be pulled down, free travel realised and all doors opened between the North and the South and put forward an epochal proposal to convene a North-South top-level conference in which the heads of the authorities and the leaders of political parties will take part.

Guyanese President Supports Reunification

SK0402083590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0800 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—The Guyanese Government and people support the struggle of the Korean Government and people to achieve the reunification of the country in accordance with the proposal for national reunification advanced by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, said Guyanese President H. Desmond Hoyte when he met with the Korean ambassador to his country on January 31.

He said that Korea must be reunified as early as possible.

He expressed satisfaction over the favorable development of the friendly and cooperative relations between Guyana and Korea, stating: The Guyanese Government and people are making every possible effort to further develop these relations.

Paper Marks Vietnamese Party Founding

SK0302070590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0528 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today dedicates a signed article to the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

The foundation of the Communist Party of Vietnam, the vanguard of the Vietnamese working class and people, under the leadership of Comrade Ho Chi Minh respected by the Vietnamese people was a historical event which brought about an epochal change in their revolutionary struggle for national and class liberation, the article stresses.

Recalling that the party had led the struggle of the Vietnamese people against the French colonialists, Japanese and U.S. imperialist aggressors to victories from the first day of its founding and performed great exploits in this course, the article says:

The 60 years traversed by the party were the course of the arduous and triumphant struggle to organise and lead the Vietnamese working class and people to achieve the freedom and liberation of the Vietnamese people and safeguard the independence of the country and national dignity against the foreign imperialists' aggression and plunder.

The party is now organizing and mobilizing the entire people in the struggle for defending the cause of socialism and stepping up socialist construction.

Under the leadership of the party the Vietnamese people are gaining big success in carrying out the "three major economic plans" put forward by the sixth congress of the party.

The communists and peoples of Korea and Vietnam have long supported and encouraged each other in their common struggle against imperialism and for the victory of the cause of socialism and communism and forged the close bonds of friendship in this course.

The friendly relations between the two countries are developing favourably and will consolidate and develop with each passing day in the interests of the cause of socialism and the two peoples.

We sincerely wish the Vietnamese people greater success in their efforts to accelerate their socialist construction in response to the decisions of the sixth congress of the Communist Party of Vietnam.

Kim Il-song Greets Sri Lankan President

SK0302102890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 3 (KCNA)—President Kim Il-song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent a message of greetings to Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa on day of independence of his country.

Expressing the belief that the friendly relations between the two countries would further develop, President Kim Il-song wished the Sri Lankan president great success in the work to achieve the stability and harmony of the country and build a prosperous new society.

Foreign Leaders Send Cards to Kim Il-song

SK0402083090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0758 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 4 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, received new year's cards from party and state leaders of different countries.

He exchanged New Year's cards with Gnassingbe Eyadema, president-founder of the Togolese People's Rally and president of the Republic of Togo.

New Year's cards came to him from Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice-president of the Council of State and vice-president of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, foreign minister of Cuba, and Eddie Fenech Adami, prime minister of the Republic of Malta.

Party's Press To Strengthen Militant Function

SK0102230090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1523 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Pyongyang February 1 (KCNA)—The National Meeting of Active Pressmen took place at the People's Palace of Culture on February 1.

It was attended by Kim Ki-nam, director of a department of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, and other officials.

Discussed there was the matter of strengthening in every way the militant function and role of the press media of our party in the onward movement to bring about a new great revolutionary upsurge in the socialist construction in the same spirit and stamina as what roused the entire party members and working people to the great Chollima upsurge in hearty response to the decisions of the historical December, 1956, plenary meeting of the party Central Committee.

Hyon Chun-kuk, editor-in-chief of NODONG SINMUN and chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Journalists Union, delivered a report to be followed by speeches.

The reporter and speakers referred to the immediate major tasks to be implemented by the press media with concerted efforts in response to the New Year address of the great leader President Kim Il-song and the resolution of the 17th plenary meeting of the 6th Party Central Committee and measures to carry them out.

They stressed the need for the newspapers, the news agency, radios and publications to go in the forefront in the struggle to resolutely defend the ideas, theories and policies of the Workers' Party of Korea and preserve its purity.

They stressed that our mass media should contribute to preparing the party members and the working people to be revolutionaries boundlessly faithful to the party and the leader by concentrating efforts on the propaganda about the greatness of the great leader and our party.

It is one of the important tasks, they said, to vigorously wage the propaganda campaign, press service campaign to intensify the drive to create a new "speed of the 90s" and thus effect a great revolutionary upsurge in all fields of the socialist construction.

Noting that the press media is confronted with the task to thoroughly implement the party's slogan that calls for living and making revolution our own way, they underscored the need to hold fast to the unique revolutionary line that our party has consistently maintained—to model the whole of society on the chuche idea, push ahead with the three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, strengthen the party and enhance its leadership role and apply the Chongsan-ri spirit and Chongsan-ri method and the Taean work system.

They also put emphasis on conducting a dynamic press service campaign for stronger international solidarity for national reunification and our revolution so that voices of international support and solidarity for our cause of national reunification may ring out loudly.

A message of pledge to the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea was adopted at the meeting.

Correction to North-South Political Talks

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "North-South Political Talks Open in Panmunjom," published in the 31 January East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 8:

page 9, column two, paragraph five, first sentence, make read: That your side, by hastily announcing in advance the plan for the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise, is attempting to make the whole of South Korea the site for a large-scale war exercise against us clearly shows that your side is seeking a policy of confrontation, war, division... (rewording for clarity);

page 10, column one, paragraph five, first sentence, make read: ...has greatly changed. It is not the 1970's when the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise was first being staged... (rewording for clarity).

South Korea

Bush's State of Union Address Examined

Arms Reduction Proposal Viewed

SK0302121590 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 3 Feb 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Bush's Proposal for Arms Reduction Is Seen To Be the Captive of Passivity"]

[Text] What drew our attention in U.S. President Bush's State of the Union address, made public on 31 January, is that he proposed a cut in U.S. and Soviet armed forces stationed in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side. At the moment, the United States has 305,000 troops in Europe, while 565,000 Soviet troops are stationed there. So, if Bush's proposal for a cut in the armed forces is realized, the United States and the Soviet Union will have 80,000 troops and 370,000 withdrawn respectively. This no doubt will reduce military tensions accordingly.

Is Bush's proposal for a cut in armed forces a "bold proposal," as described by high-ranking U.S. officials? Compared with Gorbachev's proposal for bringing down the U.S. and Soviet armed forces stationed in Europe to the level of 300,000 on each side in a speech delivered before the United Nations General Assembly session in December 1988 and Bush's proposal for cutting the two countries' armed forces in Europe by 275,000 respectively in a NATO summit meeting in May 1989, Bush's latest call for a cut in the armed forces stationed in Europe is unquestionably a "step forward."

However, given the rapid changes now taking place in East Europe and the warming trends between the East and West, Bush's latest call cannot but be a deliberate, a very deliberate, act aimed at coping with the changing situation, rather than a "bold proposal."

An examination of the U.S. defense budget released shortly before Bush's State of the Union address shows that Bush is not coping with the new trends of history through his own initiative or productivity. In the defense budget, the United States has increased spending on strategic defense, including the Strategic Defense Initiative, and ended up integrating or closing some of the military bases at home and abroad.

What must not go unnoticed in Bush's State of the Union address are his ideas on U.S. domestic issues. Although such things as the drug problem, crime, and poverty in the United States have reached a serious stage, Bush's prescription for domestic issues was so pitifully meager. He said in his State of the Union address that he would increase the educational budget by 2 percent so that more effort can be concentrated on science and mathematics education for U.S. students. As much as 30 percent of U.S. high school students drop out before graduation and as many as 30 million U.S. citizens are illiterate. Can he address such a serious situation with only a 2 percent increase in the educational budget? Education is a social problem that is directly related to poverty. The poor in the United States, while constituting 20 percent of the U.S. population, account for only 4.6 percent of the total income of every American put together. So, without narrowing the serious gap of income, the United States will find it difficult to address such social problems as education, the drug problem, and crime at the grass-roots.

Finally, in the course of Bush's delivery of his State of the Union address before the joint session of the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, we have once again confirmed the conservative and opportunist nature of U.S. politicians. When Bush said in his speech: "Just a year ago the Panamanian people lived amid terror under the thumb of a dictator. Today, however, Panama has recovered its democracy and is free," all the Republican and Democratic lawmakers gave him a standing ovation. Does U.S. imperialism have both ruling and opposition parties lined up behind itself?

Europe Troop Cut Proposal Viewed

SK0302030190 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 2 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "'Reduction of U.S.-Soviet Troops' in Revolutionized Europe"]

[Text] It seems that plans by the U.S. and the Soviet Union on how to break away from the cold war on the European continent is gradually taking shape. The foremost plan which is arousing interest the world over is arms reduction in Central Europe.

In his State of the Union Address on 31 January, U.S. President Bush proposed that the U.S. and the Soviet Union each reduce their troop levels in Central Europe from 275,000 troops, which he proposed last May, to 195,000 troops—a drop of 80,000 troops.

This new proposal by the U.S. means that the U.S. side would reduce its troops by 110,000, while the Soviet Union side would reduce its troops by 405,000. [numbers as published]

Prior to this, the Soviet Union proposed that the Western side, NATO, and the Communist side, the Warsaw Pact, each reduce the level of their troops to 1,350,000. The Soviet Union also proposed that the U.S. and Soviet troops stationed in Europe be reduced to 350,000 troops at the same time.

Practical results could not be expected from the U.S. side on the troop cut proposal made by the Soviet Union because there are 305,000 U.S. troops stationed in Europe. Therefore, it seems that the Bush administration presented a more positive troop cut proposal which can bring about a cut of 110,000 troops.

However, it also seems that the Soviet Union is also placing conditions on withdrawal of its troops from their Central European satellite countries which Stalin built up by using tanks and guns.

The Soviet Union already agreed with Hungary in January to withdraw its 65,000 troops from that country. Czechoslovakia is also openly demanding the withdrawal of Soviet troops. Furthermore, since Poland is also demanding a stop to 'military intervention' by the Soviet Union toward its allies, the future of the Soviet military is not certain.

The Soviet Union is already insisting upon the disorganization of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, and had

revealed that it would give up intervention toward its allies at the Malta summit talks which were held last December.

It seems that ultimately this is an agreement by the U.S. and the Soviet Union to be free from the difficult military confrontation in Central Europe. At the Malta summit talks, both countries agreed to hold another summit meeting in June. They also agreed that before the summit talks, meetings between the foreign ministers of both countries would be carried out twice so that some kind of results on the issue of disarmament can be brought out.

There were reports that within the NATO allies, Belgium decided to withdraw its troops from West Germany, and Great Britain decided to reduce its overall number of military forces by one third. Great Britain also decided to examine the withdrawal of its troops from West Germany.

The issue of reducing troops in Central Europe will be carried out in conjunction with the issue of the reunification of Germany. East German Prime Minister Modrow's reluctant announcement that Gorbachev admitted the inevitability of the reunification of Germany under the presupposition of "interests" among those countries concerned is viewed as a political strategy amid the trends of disarmament and moves to break from the cold war.

As the issue of disarmament becomes tangible on the European continent, we look at it from the viewpoint of how it will influence the Korean peninsula. Last November, the U.S. revealed practical polices to reduce the defense budget by 5 percent annually from 1992 to 1994. Considering all movements taking place, it is certain that there will also be changes in the scale of the U.S. troops stationed in Korea.

What is demanded is the wisdom of correctly perceiving the moves of the world, which strikingly change every day, without missing any of them.

Further on Planned U.S. Troop Reduction

Comments on "Reality" of Pullout

SK0402033290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 90 p 2

[From the "News in Review" column by Political Editor Chong Un-pung: "U.S. Troop Pullout Looms as Reality"]

[Text] The withdrawal of U.S. troops has just got off the ground. Washington last week announced the closure of three air bases. It will result in a cut of around 2,000 non-combative troops in Korea.

It is only the beginning of the eventual pullout, an issue which has long been hanging over the head of the nation. Besides the cut, officials at the Foreign Ministry admitted the likelihood of further cuts. According to them, negotiations between Seoul and Washington are going on the pullout separately from the just announced one.

Details of the negotiations may come to light during the annual defense talks between Dick Cheney, who announced the closure, and his counterpart Yi Sang-hun next week.

Timed with the planned cut, Secretary of State James Baker let on that the United States is seeking improvement in relations with North Korea.

At the Congressional hearing, Baker said the United States is looking forward to seeing a reciprocal amelioration between Seoul and Pyongyang and between Washington and Pyongyang.

It is an open secret that there have been seven rounds of talks between U.S. diplomats and North Korean diplomats in Beijing. The last two took place this year.

It is still unknown whether the results of the string of the contacts may have any connection with the U.S. decision on the closure of the air bases and the pullout of the troops.

When President Bush made a quick stopover in February last year, he said in a House session that "U.S. troops will remain in the Republic of Korea as long as they are needed and as long as we believe it is in the interest of peace to keep them there."

Given the assurance, one could assume that the United States concluded that there is some change in favor of cuts in the situational developments surrounding the Korean peninsula.

Aside from the frequent contacts with North Korean diplomats in Beijing, the United States and the Soviet Union are getting closer than at any other time in the past.

Bush and Gorbachev agreed to put an end mark to the era of Cold War on Malta in December last year. And the disintegration of the Communist regimes in Europe is rushing along like an avalanche.

All that this adds up to is that the United States may feel the need for cuts in U.S. troops overseas, action which is sure to be reciprocated by the Soviet Union, in order to reduce budget deficits.

But, there is something more to the affair than this. In the upcoming Yi-Cheney meeting, the United States will press hard for raising Korea's cost-sharing for keeping U.S. troops here.

The aforementioned further cuts may be contingent upon the outcome of the meeting of the two defense

leaders. And indications are that the Seoul will not cling on to the coattails of the United States as it did in the past.

Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun instructed Defense Minister Yi to be fully prepared for the cuts so that no slips occur in the nation's defense.

However, Kang voiced concern about the effect the pullout may have on the psychology of the general public because they have long been used to the benefits of the presence of U.S. troops here.

No doubt, Korea has got fat under the U.S. defense protection. Now, it has grown to be one of the 10 leading trading nations.

If there is no improvement in relations between South and North Korea, South Korea will face enormous difficulties going it alone. Even Japan, which has no immediate hostile force confronting it, has about 50,000 U.S. troops on its soil.

Whatever the rhetoric, the withdrawal of U.S. troops has become a kind of unavoidable eventuality with only the date when it will be completed remaining unsettled.

A citizen in Seoul, who experienced the tragic internecine Korean War said, "We have to meet the new reality. And, it should be business as usual for all of us."

Cheney Visit, Cuts Draw 'Concern'

SK0402033690 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 90 p 2

[From the "News Analysis" column by staff reporter Pak In-chol: "Cheney's Visit Draws Concern Amid Reports of More" Troop Cuts"]

[Text] Keen attention is being drawn to U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney's visit to Korea next week. Will he ask for more cuts in the U.S. troop level here? Then how deep?

There have been confused reports on the level of reduction of U.S. forces stationed in Korea the governments of Korea and the United States will take up during Cheney's trip here Feb. 14-17.

Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun told reporters last Tuesday that Seoul and Washington have not reached agreement on further troop reductions, except the pullout of slightly more than 2,000 airmen.

Nevertheless, he indicated that a limited number of administrative and other support personnel could be pulled out of Korea even if the U.S. ground forces are reduced.

In an interview with a vernacular paper last Thursday, President No Tae-u also said it is "inevitable," given the U.S. situation, that the United States should trim its military personnel in Korea to a level that it will not undermine the combat capability in Korea.

There have been close consulations between the two countries, about U.S. troop reductions, the President added.

The remarks by No and Yi are seen as a signal that American ground forces stationed in Korea will be reduced.

In a Seoul-datelined story, THE NEW YORK TIMES reported Thursday that the reductions would involve roughly 4,000 to 5,000 of the 43,000-strong American forces, mostly support personnel.

The rollback should bring U.S. forces to the levels of the early 1980s, before the Reagan administration began a broad military buildup.

On the same day, THE WASHINGTON POST, quoting analysts, reported from Seoul that there would be sharper reductions of American forces in Korea in addition to the pullout of 5,000 noncombat personnel. The paper said the 5,000 men would come from the 2nd Infantry Division, and there will be a realignment of the combined Korea-U.S. defense posture.

Officials at the Defense Ministry denied the POST report yesterday, saying that there has been no agreement on further troop cuts thus far.

Analysts said there is a great possibility that the Korean government will promise to increase substantially its burden-sharing to stave off sharper reductions of the U.S. troops here when Cheney visits Korea.

Defense Minister Yi already indicated that. He has told reporters that Seoul is willing to increase its share of the upkeep of American troops, in return for maintaining the U.S. ground forces in Korea at the current level.

The Korean government has paid about $300 million a year in direct costs for the U.S. forces and $1.9 billion in land leases, officials have said.

It is yet to be seen, however, whether the U.S. side would be satisfied with Korean proposals for increasing the burdensharing. Seoul apparently will not comply with "excessive" U.S. demands.

A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official last week bluntly said Seoul would let the United States reduce its ground troops rather than yield to an "unreasonable" American demand.

Defense Ministry officials have said that the U.S. side is asking Seoul to pay the salaries of Korean workers hired by U.S. military installations in Korea.

As for the planned closing of three U.S. air bases in Korea, Defense Minister Yi has said the government was informed of the decision back in October 1988. Gen. Louis C. Menetrey, commander of the Korea-U.S. Combined Forces Command, told the then Defense Minister O Cha-pok about the plan, according to Yi.

The announcement of the base closings touched a raw nerve in Korea, where security is given top priority but public opinion has recently been split over the presence of 43,000 U.S. troops under the 1954 Mutual Defense Pact.

Radical students, dissidents and liberal groups demand a total withdrawal of the U.S. forces on the grounds that they hamper reunification of the Korean Peninsula, divided into two since the end of World War II in 1945.

Opinion polls show that most Koreans want U.S. forces to remain here.

But most Koreans seem to take the troop reduction in stride. Surprisingly, few conservative groups have issued statements opposing the troop cut.

As a matter of fact, the reduction announcement did not come as a total surprise to Koreans.

Few people took U.S. President George Bush at his word when he reaffirmed during a visit to Seoul last year U.S. troops "will remain in the Republic of Korea as long as they are needed, and as long as we believe it is in the interest of peace to keep them here."

It thus was little cause for wonder when Washington included Korea on the list of countries where its military presence will be reduced, although it had been predicted that a withdrawal of ground forces would precede a reduction of the U.S. Air Force, which is a strong deterrent against North Korean attack.

'Cool-Headed Insight' Required

SK0402044890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Feb 90 p 8

[Editorial: "Not To Risk Security"]

[Text] Inarguably, the United States and the Soviet Union, largely prompted by Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroyka and the ensuing cataclysmic changes in Eastern Europe, have entered an era of new detente, symbolized by their Malta summit last year—at least in Europe. Yet, some things remain quite unchanged, and even show signs of a backlash, in Northeast Asia in particular.

In Europe, much [ground] has been laid, logically and environmentally, for talking about arms cuts. But no palpable signs, based on a buildup of mutual trust, have yet been created to carry arms curtailment into action in the Asian region. Of course, this dictates the need for initiating efforts to make all that possible. What matters most, however, is how to make that bid without causing counterproductive effects. A correct look at the realities, with historical insight taken into account, is essential.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Thursday that Washington should seek "a new global relationship" with Moscow that both ease tensions and promote Gorbachev's reformist policies. Certainly, it is a welcome overture, given the impact the superpowers have on keeping the world stable and peaceful.

Baker said the crucial test of the Soviets' determination to improve superpower relations will be their role in resolving regional disputes. He then added that he hopes the United States will improve relations with North Korea on a reciprocal basis. This came right on the heels of Washington's announcement last week that three out of the five U.S. Air Force bases in Korea will be closed in two years. The announced base closure, whatever the reasons given, is an apparent gambit on Washington's part in initiating arms reduction in this part of the world. As Baker said in calling for improved relations with Pyongyang, all that will hopefully lead to improving relations between South and North Korea. But what is important is how to make Pyongyang react in earnest to that initiative.

We should be wary of Pyongyang's ulterior motives to exploit our good intentions in favor of realizing its goals which, by all indications, still remain the same as before in defiance of the surging global waves of freedom and openness. Not allowing the North Koreans to make any miscalculation, by which they may be tempted to resort to subversive adventurism, is imperative. At this juncture, noteworthy is Baker's reaffirmation that the U.S. commitment to Korea's security is important for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. Surely, given the geostrategic position of the peninsula, maintaining stability here is crucial not only to us but to many others. What should be remembered is how devastatingly North Korea's unleashing of the Korean War worked against the cause of world peace.

The war's outbreak followed unequivocal remarks made by ranking Washington officials, including the then Secretary of State Dean Acheson, to the effect that South Korea was not included in the U.S. defense periphery. There have been few other examples caused by similar ambiguity, either wittingly or unwittingly, to the disadvantage of Korea.

The United States is said to have made contacts with North Korea. Under no circumstances should this be permitted to be mistaken by Pyongyang as an opportunity to pit Washington against Seoul—an eventuality, if realized, that would betray America's genuine efforts to establish peace in Northeast Asia.

The security of South Korea is vital, as is noted so often by Washington officials, to that of the United States. South Korea is the only country on the East Asian continent where America maintains a strategic outpost which serves its global strategic interests, and for that matter political and economic interests. Sustaining deterrence here, therefore, serves both sides so long as America intends to display global leadership, not diminished by realigning the political order in this part of the world. The Korean Peninsula, geopolitically, has few equals in the world for the convergence of the major powers' influence.

Few would expect the United States to keep its military presence here indefinitely. But any hasty pullout, without due account of the existing realities, would only cost America and its security partners dearly—something that otherwise could be avoided. So, any phaseout of the military presence should be undertaken in tune with compensatory actions. A cool-headed insight for reciprocity, not preoccupied with bias, is required to face up to the situation.

For our part, we should be better prepared to defend ourselves. But today, in a world of interacting complexity, one cannot expect to defend oneself alone. Joint efforts for security in a genuine sense are the order of the time. For this, awareness of mutual confidence is a critical ingredient. Developing consensus in meeting the evolving situation is important.

In a nutshell, now is not the time for us to risk uncertain and precipitous ventures in security realignment. A more prudent approach is in order to ensure stability in Korea for all but those intent on disrupting it.

Baker's Comments on North Korea Viewed

Remarks on Relations Welcomed

SK0302110190 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 3 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Baker's Remarks Toward North Korea—the ROK and the United States Should Induce Its Openness With Close Cooperation Between Them"]

[Text] The remarks by James Baker, U.S. Secretary of State, that urged North Korea to take sincere steps to promote dialogue between North and South Korea and to improve U.S.-North Korean relations well explain the principles and method of the U.S. approach to North Korea.

The expression of views by the person in charge of U.S. foreign policy on the U.S.-North Korean relations at a time when the issue of the U.S. troop reduction in the ROK has become a reality is enough to draw our attention irrespective of the weight placed on the remarks. However, Secretary Baker made clear what the U.S. Administration thinks about this issue by saying that he hopes for "a solid and give-and-take procedure" as a precondition for the improvement of U.S.-North Korean relations, as well as for the improvement of relations between North and South Korea.

The remarks by Secretary Baker, which were rather diplomatic and moderately expressed, suggest that the ROK and the United States have taken necessary steps to improve relations with North Korea and that, therefore, it is now North Korea's turn to take corresponding steps. This method of approach taken by the United States gives an impression that the United States is somewhat more realistic and prudent than us who, in order to induce North Korea toward dialogue and openness, more or less overlooked North Korea's terrorist acts and have been adhering to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of North Korea.

The United States has loosened its sanctions against North Korea, which it had imposed in October 1988 when the Korean Airliner 858 was bombed, has been making contacts with North Korean diplomats in Beijing, and has assumed a flexible stance toward exchange between scholars of the two countries. The visit to North Korea by [Gaston] Sigur, former assistant secretary of state and the U.S. invitation of North Korea's high-level official to a symposium in the United States were part of the steps taken by the United States toward Pyongyang.

However, while the United States in fact increased its contacts with North Korea, it has not withdrawn its definition of North Korea as a "terrorist state," which it gave when the Korean airliner 858 bombing occurred. Because of the parliamentarianism and law-governing system of the United States that do not allow secret diplomacy, the United States requires North Korea to make a firm guarantee that it has abandoned terrorism and will never make such an attempt again before it can withdraw the definition. The United States also demands that North Korea join the safety treaty of the International Atomic Energy Agency. We interpret the "give-and-take" process called for by the United States to mean these steps to be taken by North Korea.

The ROK and the United States share a common interest in their policy to induce North Korea to come out of its isolation toward openness. Therefore, the United States supported the ROK policy toward North Korea proclaimed through its 7 July Declaration. We find evidence that there has been a basic understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union that the United States and the Soviet Union will maintain nonpolitical relations with North and South Korea in a crossed manner and that political relations will come about depending on the "productive dialogue" between North and South Korea.

Different from Eastern Europe accepting reform and openness, North Korea is running counter to the trend of history, and this makes it all the more necessary for the major powers to pressure North Korea to follow suit. These conditions taken into account as a whole, the U.S. attempt to improve its relations with North Korea is far from a hasty move. If substantive improvement of relations between the United States and North Korea is made, it will contribute to subduing down some people's claim that the United States is an imperialist obstacle in the way of reunification.

However, we should not forget that national interests between countries, even those between allies, can often conflict. This is why political cooperation, as much as military alliance, is necessary between the ROK and the United States in regard to the issue of North Korea and the issue of settlement of peace on the Korean peninsula.

Since we have made little substantive progress in North-South dialogue so far, we ought to appreciate the practicability of U.S. diplomacy, which could bring forth some substantive results.

Testimony Seen as Bewildering

SK0402111390 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 3 Feb 90 p 3

["Reporter's Eye" column by Political Department reporter Yi Chae-ho: "Baker's Remarks on North Korea"]

[Text] The 1 February testimony by Baker, U.S. Secretary of State, before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee bewilders us. There is something misty about the could-be double nature of diplomacy.

According to a report by the domestic press, Baker, in his testimony explaining the priorities of U.S. foreign policy, said that "the United States hopes to improve relations with North Korea." In other words, he is reported to have said that "the United States has been steadily exploring the give-and-take process for the improvement of relations between the North and South Korea and between the United States and North Korea."

It is not common that a U.S. Secretary of State officially made clear to Congress the U.S. willingness to improve relations with North Korea. Since the United States has been making steady attempts to contact North Korea in Beijing, Baker's remarks were enough to arouse our attention. The Washington-based ROK correspondents hurriedly sent this report, which made big headlines in the ROK press.

However, we should ascertain, in the first place, whether Secretary Baker's remarks on North Korea in his congressional testimony were true or not. Without doubt, the text of his testimonial speech, which he had prepared and distributed before the testimony, did contain the remarks on the "willingness to improve relations with North Korea." However, he did not read these remarks in the actual testimony he made before the members of the Foreign Relations Committee. Our embassy in Washington ascertained this on the spot and reported it immediately to the Foreign Ministry.

Why did Secretary Baker drop these remarks? Because he did not mention these remarks in his actual testimony, the "willingness to improve relations with North Korea" is not valid as a testimony. Although the remarks were in the printed text of his speech distributed before the testimony, it does not have binding force externally. Was this Baker's mistake, or did he do it on purpose? The Foreign Ministry is unable to explain.

It is not readily convincing that its was a mistake. Although the ROK may share only a minor position in the priority list of overall U.S. foreign policy issues, the issue concerned with the ROK, a main U.S. ally in Northeast Asia and the Pacific region, is not light enough so that it can or cannot be mentioned.

From Secretary Baker's testimony, it occurs to me that the United States may be employing a policy like a "North Korean card." Since the United States seemed to step up its efforts to contact North Korea to keep pace with the ROK efforts to improve relations with China and the Soviet Union, the failure to mention North Korea might have been intentional. Was it a play of words aimed at the ROK when the United States did not have any substantive willingness to improve relations with North Korea, which it branded as a terrorist state? The ROK-U.S. relations these days are such that we cannot afford not to ponder over such a testimony by the U.S. secretary of state.

Significance of Remarks Viewed

SK0502045690 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 3 Feb 90 p 3

[Editorial: "Significance of Baker's Remarks"]

[Text] On 1 February, James Baker, U.S. Secretary of State, attracted people's attention when he expressed the official view of the U.S. Government to Congress that it hopes the improvement of U.S.-North Korea relations. Since October 1988, the United States permitted North Korean people to visit the United States, relaxing the ban on contacts between U.S. and North Korean diplomats, and held councilor-level talks in Beijing, thus holding multifaceted contacts with North Korea. However, it is the first time that the Secretary of State officially expressed the U.S. hope for the improvement of its relations with North Korea. Therefore, we pay attention to what his true intention is, and such attention is quite natural because not just once or twice has our nation's destiny been so greatly affected by the remarks made by U.S. Secretary of State or equivalent-level U.S. officials during the past 100-year modern history. We do not forget the secret agreement made between the U.S. Secretary of the Army Taft and the Japanese Prime Minister Katura Taro in July 1905, and we still remember the tragic 25 June southward war of aggression we suffered due to the "Acheson line" instituted by Acheson, then U.S. Secretary of State, in January 1950. It is also our painful memory that Cordell Hull, the U.S. Secretary of State, sent a final notice to Japan for determent of Japan's invasion of Asia, and he did not demand Japan's abandonment of its rights over Korea.

At that time, the United States merely emphasized that Japan should totally withdraw its armed forces from China and Indochina and abandon its various rights and privileges over China, and that the United States does not recognize the Manchurian government and Wang Zhaoming regime. However, stating that it cannot accept even such a demand, Japan triggered the so-called "Great East Asian War." As a result of this, we were forcibly mobilized in the war carried out by Japan and suffered the loss of many lives.

As such, the remarks of the U.S. Secretary of State exerted influence over our right to existence. Some people may say that the time has now changed and the

international circumstances have also changed, and that Secretary Baker's remarks made on 1 February include peaceloving and reconciliatory significance.

However, the U.S. influence upon us is still enormous. What is important, above all, is the U.S. security commitment to us and the U.S. troops in our country which are implementing such commitment through action. We cannot but pay keen attention to the fact that the United States is hoping for the improvement of its relations with North Korea at a time when U.S. troops are expected to withdraw from our country in a phased manner beginning this year, regardless of the form and method of the withdrawal.

Secretary Baker also said that the "productive dialogue between the North and the South of Korea" is a key factor for easing tension and for achieving the ultimate reunification. He stressed that the security commitment to Korea is vital for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. Despite this, we cannot but be somewhat concerned with Baker's remarks about improvement of the relations with North Korea even while we welcome his remarks. We think that just as Taft, Hull, and Acheson did in the past, the United States has been so intensively bent on only adapting itself to the international situation that it treats sacrifice and damages of other nations lightly.

Baker's remarks may be simply an "expression of the U.S. hope and call on the North Korean side to take affirmative step." However, we think that the United States should not attempt to have exclusive talks and negotiations with North Korea without close consultation with South Korea, its traditional ally. The armistice talks, which began in June 1951, still make South Korea's position very difficult because of exclusive negotiations which the United States held with North Korea.

We think it is now the time for us to seek our own share. Irrespective of the North and South of Korea, we should frankly admit that we have a habit of excessively depending on the United States while turning our faces away from each other. Since the United States naturally assumes the pursuance of its own interest before everything, it is now the time for both the North and the South to think of the national interest.

Study of Shift in Operational Control Urged

SK0502095390 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 4 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Joint Awareness of Security on the Korean Peninsula"]

[Text] The two pending key questions in cooperative relations for security between Korea and the United States are the U.S. troops stationed in Korea and their operational control. As a matter of fact, at a time when the reduction of U.S. troops in Korea has emerged as a reality, these two questions can be considered the entire subject to be discussed between Korea and the United States for joint security cooperation on the Korean peninsula. At this very moment, the joint Korea-U.S. awareness of security on the Korean peninsula is being put forward, thus attracting our attention. One of the questions at issue is the discussion of the transfer of operational control and the other is the theory of the persistent danger of war on the Korean peninsula.

It was learned that, prompted by the reduction of U.S. troops, Korea and the United States are coming closer together in their opinions on an agreement that the operational control, which the U.S. side (the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command) presently holds, will be transferred to the ROK side in peace time and to the U.S. side in time of war, and that the ROK side will take it over in the end. The issue of the transfer of operational control has been a matter of interest to us for a long time, more so than to the United States. We have to secure operational control over the military as a sovereign independent state, but at the same time as a state in military confrontation in a divided country. This is quite natural not only from the standpoint of nationalism but also of self-defense of the independent state.

Although partial dialogue and exchanges are being held between the North and the South of Korea, the two sides are still in military confrontation with each other. Furthermore, South Korea is not the main force of the Armistice Agreement—the only mechanism restraining the antagonistic relations even provisionally. Herein lies the complexity in the discussions of the issue on operational control between Korea and the United States. We think that before operational control is handed over to us, Korea should first become the main force of the current agreement or the new safety mechanism which may supersede this agreement.

The theory on having different approaches in war time and peace time also becomes an issue. One may easily shout for self-defense and nationalism. However, it is important for one to realize that easing tension and the consolidation of peace on the Korean peninsula can be ensured only through joint security cooperation between Korea and the United States.

We would like to address the common belief cherished by defense and diplomatic strategists of the United States—our traditional ally and another pillar for security on the Korean peninsula. These strategists are James Baker, secretary of state; Dick Cheney, secretary of defense and Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the United States. They emphasized that the U.S. security commitment to Korea is vital for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. In particular, General Powell said that although North Korea still maintains fearful military power, the "Korea-U.S. security relations" will continuously deter its provocations. His remarks mean that the danger of war still exists on the Korean peninsula.

Even amid the trend of worldwide disarmament and reconciliation, discussion of the reduction of armed

forces on the Korean peninsula has not even started. This is a clear proof showing that the danger of war has not been removed from the Korean peninsula. It is also important for one to know that the two super powers of the United States and the Soviet Union have not notably changed their global strategies which assume their military power as the axle even while cutting defense expenditures and holding negotiations for disarmament. This is shown by the fact that the Soviet Union put forward the withdrawal of NATO within five years as a condition for overall withdrawal of its armed forces from East Europe, even while expressing its willingness withdraw. The proposal of U.S. President Bush, for reduction to 195,000 troops of the U.S. and Soviet Army stationed in Europe also attracts our attention.

The provisional transfer of operational control is something that we should welcome. However, there is need to discuss the theory on the danger of war on the Korean peninsula, pondering its practical situation. We should not act merely based on simple logic. We must first consider such safety factors as clear guarantees of the advance warning system and so forth.

U.S. Congressman Reportedly Invited to Pyongyang

SK0302093790 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0900 GMT 3 Feb 90

[YONHAP from Washington]

[Text] North Korea is reported to have expressed its willingness to discuss the issue of returning the remains of five U.S. soldiers who died during the Korean war and to have invited a U.S. congressman to visit Pyongyang.

An aide to Congressman [G.V. (Sonny)] Montgomery, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee for Veteran's Affairs, confirming that the congressman had been invited by North Korea, said that the congressman has not yet decided whether he would accept the invitation or not.

A source quoted the U.S. State Department as saying that "if North Korea is willing to return the remains of U.S. soldiers, it should translate its intention into practice through the Military Armistice Commission meeting in Panmunjom. The U.S. State Department is reported to be reluctant about Congressman Montgomery's visit to the North.

The U.S. State Department regards North Korea's invitation to Congressman Montgomery as an excuse to open a channel for dialogue with the United States in various forms by using the congressman as an instrument.

Need for Self-Reliant National Defense Stressed

SK0502080990 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 3 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Our Task in the Era of Disarmament"]

[Text] When the closure of three U.S. Air Force bases in South Korea had been reported, the authorities emphasized that there would be no change in the balance of combat capabilities on the Korean peninsula. This shows us that, unfortunately, the Korean peninsula is still an exception from the global atmosphere of bidding farewell to the cold war era and of achieving harmony and disarmament.

The realignment of U.S. Forces in South Korea is not something done according to the change in the North Korean stand, but is a part of U.S. disarmament and of the overall realignment of its overseas bases carried out to reduce military expenditures. This means that we now need a supplementary augmentation of troops, equipment, and budget that is proportional to the U.S. troop reduction.

Last month, pointing out the North Korea's continued military buildup, which is carried out in spite of its rhetoric about disarmament, President No Tae-u said that the reduction of military expenditures should never debated under such circumstances. Prime Minister Kang Yong-hun as well, at the cabinet meeting held on 1 February, ordered the augmentation of military combat capabilities to prevent any lax areas from being created in our defense posture in the wake of the closure of the U.S. bases.

The United States has decided to close 70 military bases at home and abroad over the next 5 years. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union is planning to carry out a phased reduction of its troops from East Europe and of its 200,000 troops in Asia, including 120,000 in the Far East. This, it can be said, is a result of the atmosphere ripe for the new detente and of the rapid improvement of U.S.-Soviet relations following the Malta summit late last year.

In this regard, we would like to note the fact that the military confrontation on the Korean peninsula is not being affected yet by such improvement in the U.S.-Soviet relations. The U.S. and Soviet reduction of their overseas troops is according to the mutual confidence which has been built up to a remarkable degree. In this respect, we would like to also note the unilateral reduction of U.S. Forces from South Korea, which is scheduled to be carried out despite such mutual confidence—a precondition to disarmament—not being built up yet on the Korean peninsula.

It has been reported that those who are to be reduced from the U.S. Forces in South Korea are noncombatants. At the same time, South Korea and the United States reportedly agreed that the U.S. Forces in South Korea should never be reduced to such a degree that it would weaken the deterrence of war on the Korean peninsula. However, if what is taking place is the beginning of the eventual withdrawal of the U.S. Forces, the augmentation of our combat capabilities and the realignment of our defense posture are inevitable in whatever form. And

this is even more true, as long as there is no change in the confrontation between the North and South.

Meanwhile, our defense system, while it exists to deter North Korea's possible military provocation along with U.S. Forces on the Korean peninsula in the first place, is one of the elements maintaining the balance of power in Northeast Asia between the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, and China. Accordingly, the reduction of U.S. Forces and their equipment in South Korea is inevitably interlocked with our own military strength.

South Korea is already inferior to North Korea in ground troops by 550,000 to 850,000, in the number of naval vessels by 170 to 484, and in tactical aircraft by 480 to 830.

Accordingly, achieving self-reliant national defense in name and reality is a task which we must accomplish.

The further reduction of U.S. Forces in South Korea is a trend, and some circles in the United States even say that the role of the U.S. Forces on the Korean peninsula should be turned into a complementary role. Under these circumstances, we are facing a solemn task; reexamination of the overall defense resources. And this need should be adequately made known to the people who presently hear only about the reduction of U.S. troops.

Yim Su-kyong Given 10-Year Prison Term

SK0502050990 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Seoul District Criminal Court sentenced Yim Su-kyong, who had been arrested and indicted on charges of violating the National Security Law in connection with her participation in the Pyongyang festival, to a 10-year prison term. Reporter Yi Chun-han reports on this.

[Begin Yi recording] In a public trial held this morning at the Seoul District Criminal Court, Senior Judge Hwang Sang-hyon sentenced Yim Su-kyong to 10 years in prison and suspended her civil rights for the same period, and sentenced Mun Kyu-hyon to 8 years in prison and suspended his civil rights for the same period, recognizing the prosecution's accusations against them. With this court decision the judicial procedures for the first trial against Yim Su-kyong and Mun Kyu-hyon have been completed after 5 months since their arrest and indictment.

In the rulings the judge said: After secretly infiltrating into Pyongyang in accordance with North Korea's strategy against South Korea the two accused performed the role as propagandists of North Korea by calling for the withdrawal of U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea and for the abolition of the National Security Law and by defining the Republic of Korea as a colony of the United States, while turning away from the various contradictions which existed in North Korea such as North Korea's maneuvers for provocation against South Korea, the dictatorial rule by Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, and North Korea's policy of Kim Il-song idolization. Therefore, the two accused cannot escape such a penal judgment. [end recording]

Chondaehyop's Im Charged for Security Violation

SK0402024290 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Im Chong-sok, chairman of the nation's larges student activist alliance Chondaehyop [National Council of University Student Representative] was formally charged yesterday with violating the National Security Law and the Law on Assembly and Demonstration, eight weeks after his arrest.

Im, a Hanyang University senior, had been on the police wanted list for his participation in the illegal Feb. 13, 1989, Youido rally by farmers to seek abolition of the irrigation tax and reform measures to support debt-ridden peasants.

He was arrested on Dec. 18 by police at Kyonghui University after an interview with a TV reporter and is now in Seoul Prison on the southern outskirts of the capital city.

In addition to the charges of violating the Law on Assembly and Demonstration for masterminding violent campus demonstrations last year, Yi Chong-wang of the Seoul District Prosecutor's Office said Im offended three counts of the security law.

According to the charges, the 23-year-old student played a leading role in dispatching Miss Yim Su-kyong to the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students held in Pyongyang last July.

Im Chong-sok's telephone contact with North Korea's festival organizers in Vienna last June constituted a violation of the law that bans unauthorized communications with Pyongyang," Prosecutor Yi said.

He was also accused of organizing Chondaehyop's festival preparation committee, which the law-enforcement authorities labeled an "anti-state body benefiting North Korea."

With the help of other student leaders still at large Im pulled strings for the dispatch of Miss Yim Su-kyong to Pyongyang and her signing of a joint communique with northern students favoring North Korea's reunification strategy, the prosecutors added.

Three Permitted To Contact North Colleagues

SK0402035790 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] The government yesterday gave permission to three people including Pang U-yong, president-publisher of the vernacular daily CHOSON ILBO, to contact

North Koreans in connection with their plans to visit North Korea or to invite North Koreans to South Korea.

The two others are Yu Sang-yol, president of the Korean Christian Council for Promotion of Inter-Korean Exchanges, and Kim Kwang-u, a professor of medicine at Seoul National University.

Pang had asked the government to approve the daily's plan to contact Kim Kyong-pong, president of the North Korean Academy of Sciences, and two other scientists, through letters or telephone calls from the daily's correspondents in Tokyo and Hong Kong, on invitations for a 20-member biological investigation team, which the daily plans to dispatch to North Korea to study Mt. Paektu between May and September of this year.

Yu also sought government approval for his plan to contact North Korean Christian leader Kang Yong-sop through a Korean-American to obtain invitations for 10 south Korean Christians who want to visit the north in April this year to attend the opening of its Chilgol Church in Pyongyang.

Prof. Kim hopes to contact Ma Mun-pil, a professor at Pyongyang Medical College, through a Korean-Chinese to invite North Korean scholars to the eighth academic symposium of anesthesiologists in Asia and Oceania, which is scheduled for Seoul Sept. 23-28 this year.

Further Reportage on Political Restructuring

Kim Tae-chung Against Merger

SK0502024190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0213 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Changwon, Korea, Feb. 5 (YONHAP)—Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung warned Sunday he will stop at nothing to block the "one-party dictatorship" being forged by President No Tae-u in alliance with former opposition leaders Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil.

The head of the Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) said he has a four-stage plan to struggle against the new dictatorial rule.

"Saturday's meeting between No and the two Kims at Chongwadae (the presidential office) showed that they have abandoned revision or abolishment of evil laws and agreed on an economic policy that could deepen the gap between the rich and poor and that runs counter to social justice and fair distribution," Kim said during a meeting to inaugurate the PPD's South Kyongsang provincial chapter.

"We will, at any cost with all centrist forces at hand, block the merger of the three parties that are seeking such a basic economic policy under the one-party dictatorship," said Kim, who was excluded from the so-called grand conservative alliance.

The PPD will launch a publicity campaign as the first stage in the struggle to frustrate the merger, and for the second stage it will submit a resolution to the National Assembly calling for the resignation of every lawmaker in a special session in February so the people can vote directly on whether they agree to the merger, the PPD leader said.

The PPD, now Korea's sole opposition party, is prepared to launch a 10 million-signature petition drive and engage in other non-violent activities in the third phase and seek a judgment on the merger in the local elections due in the first half of the year as the final stage of the struggle, Kim said.

"For example, the agreement made at Saturday's meeting on the partial revision of the National Security Law, with its basic framework retained, exposed their plot to use the law to justify human rights abuses and to suppress the popular movement for democratization, social justice and reunification of the Korean peninsula," Kim charged.

His stern warning came as No and the other Kims accelerate steps to create the huge new ruling party, which could have an impact on the political future of the PPD leader, who poses a serious challenge to the unprecedented realignment of the ruling and opposition camps.

Commenting on an agreement between the three to drop criminal charges filed against him in connection with an unauthorized visit to North Korea by a member of his party, Kim said he cannot accept the offer and instead the government must apologize because it indicted him without any evidence.

Kim was indicted on charges of violating the National Security Law last year by not reporting PPD Lawmaker So Kyong-won's trip to North Korea.

Opposes Constitutional Revision

SK0402043890 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Opposition leader Kim Tae-chung yesterday made it clear that his party is firmly against revising the Constitution in favor of a cabinet government system.

Reversing his earlier flexible attitude toward changing the government system, Kim, president of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], maintained that the cabinet system has many complicated problems which may invite corruption in connection with National Assembly approval of the prime minister, influence-buying activities by business lobbyists and control of the military.

Also, he argued, the regional animosity cited by the ruling camp as a rationale behind the constitutional revision to implement the cabinet system could be resolved when the vice president post is introduced under the current presidential system.

"The reason why I previously expressed my willingness to discuss the cabinet system with the ruling camp should not be interpreted as acceptance of the system itself, but my party's readiness to explain in detail the negative aspects of the parliament system," he explained to reporters.

Merged Party Leaders' Meeting

SK0302101590 Seoul YONHAP in English 1154 GMT 3 Feb 90

[By Kim Min-chol]

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—Top leaders of the three political parties which recently agreed on a three-way merger to form a greater governing party decided Saturday to advance the timing of the inaugural convention of the new party, tentatively named "Democratic Liberal Party (DLP)," from originally scheduled May to early April.

No Tae-u, president of the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), Kim Yong-sam, head of the Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) and Kim Chong-pil, head of the New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP) agreed to hold an open rally on Feb. 9 to celebrate the scheduled merger and report their decision to merge to the Central Election Management Committee by Feb. 15.

In a meeting at No's official residence, the trio also decided to positively consider withdrawing a suit filed earlier by the prosecution against Kim Tae-chung, the sole opposition party leader left over from the two Kims' joining in the ruling camp. The meeting was also attended by Rep. Pak Tae-chun, chairman of the DJP.

Kim Tae-chung, president of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD), was indicted last year in connection with the controversial secret visit by one of the PPD lawmakers to Pyongyang in 1988. Rep. So Kyong-won was arrested last year on charges of violating the National Security Law.

The leaders decided to consider releasing prisoners convicted on political and security-related charges for national reconciliation. The prisoners include Yi Pu-yong, co-chairman of a leading dissident group, Chonminnyon, and So Sung, a long-serving converted leftist.

Briefing the results of the meeting to reporters, Presidential Spokesman Yi Su-chung said that those issues concerning Kim Tae-chung and the political prisoners were raised by Kim Yong-sam.

The leaders, Yi added, also decided to consider revising the National Security Law, which has been the main target of opposition attacks. The PPD, led by Kim Tae-chung, has openly called for its abolition.

Regarding opposition demand for the release of the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, who was jailed for his unauthorized visit to Pyongyang last year, No reportedly said that his release at this moment was "undesirable and difficult (to handle) in reality."

The meeting was the first of its kind since their joint announcement on Jan. 22 of their decision to merge their three parties to inaugurate a new governing party.

In the meeting, the leaders outlined four policy goals they would pursue "for the realization of democracy, prosperity and reunification" in the 1990s. The four goals are upgrading the per capita income to 15,000 U.S. dollars level in the year 2000 from the present 5,000 dollars: settlement of mature democracy: dissolution of conflicts between regions and between generations and buildup of a welfare state: and foundation of the basis for reunification.

The leaders of the huge conservative alliance decided to seek persistent reforms in all political, economic and social fields.

They decided to deal with amendment of major controversial bills and issues concerning civil life at the coming extra-ordinary session of the National Assembly, slated to open on Feb. 19 for 20 days.

Touching on the national economy, the leaders agreed to seek additional measures aimed at revitalizing business activities and, if necessary, funnel "1 trillion won (some 1.45 billion U.S. dollars) of special facilities fund" to the industries facing financial difficulties.

They agreed to sternly deal with illegal and violent actions that might be taken both by the management and workers at work sites in an effort to secure industrial peace.

The leaders also reached an accord on the need to take resolute measures to eradicate speculative real estate transactions and push ahead with the plan to introduce a real-name financial transaction system starting from next year for the realization of the "economic justice."

They decided to to introduce the concept of public ownership of land restricting excessive land-ownership as scheduled, and implement the real-name financial transaction system on a step-by-step basis.

The leaders also agreed to work out comprehensive measures to secure balanced development between rural and urban cities and regions and stabilize the prices of houses to solve the worsening housing problem of workers and low-income brackets.

Security Act Revision Agreement

SK0402055290 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] President No Tae-u, Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil agreed yesterday to revise the National Security Act (NSA) and release an unspecified number of imprisoned political dissenters.

They said they decided to take the measures as part of efforts to press ahead with democratic reforms and foster national reconcilition.

Meeting at Chongwadae, the co-leaders of the projected new ruling party, tentatively named the Democratic Liberal Party, decided to advance its inaugural convention to early April from the originally slated May.

They also agreed to affirmatively consider dropping charges against Kim Tae-chung, leader of the opposition Party for Peace and Democracy'[PPD], and Kim Won-ki, the party's former floor leader, who have been indicted for their alleged roles in Rep. So Kyong-won's unauthorized visit to North Korea last year, presidential spokesman Yi Su-chung said.

"It has been agreed that the NSA should be rewritten in a positive manner, with its basic framework retained," No and the two Kims said in a statement issued after their talks.

"As for the issue of freeing political detainees, an agreement has been reached on the need for expanding its scope," the statement said.

No told the two Kims that he will positively consider freeing such dissident leaders as Yi Pu-yong, a co-chairman of the dissident National Democratic Alliance of Korea, spokesman Yi said.

Amnesty may also be granted to So Sung and other "long-term prisoners" who have pledged to renounce their Communist leanings, Yi added.

The question of the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, who was arrested for an unauthorized visit to Pyongyang last year, was also raised, but President No told the two Kims that freeing him at this time is "undesirable and impracticable," the spokesman said.

The talks were the second official meeting among the three since their announcement Jan. 22 of the merger of their three parties—the Democratic Justice Party [DJP] of No, the Reunification Democratic Party [RDP] of Kim Yong-sam and the New Democratic Republican Party [NDRP] of Kim Chong-pil.

At the talks also joined by DJP Chairman Pak Tae-chun, No and the two Kims agreed to hold a three-party joint meeting this Friday for the merger, and register the new party with the Central Election Management Committee by Feb. 15.

They also said the projected new party will form a new floor negotiating group before the opening Feb. 19 of an extraordinary session of the National Assembly.

No and the two Kims agreed that the special Assembly session will last for 20 days to act on major democratic reform bills and other matters.

They also announced four major policy goals to be actively pursued by their new party.

One of the goals envisions tripling the per capita GNP to $15,000 by the year 2000.

The three other policy objectives are the establishment of a mature democracy, the building of a welfare society and the fostering of a foundation for national reunification.

Discussing ways to overcome the current economic difficulties facing the nation, the three leaders agreed that emphasis will be placed on reinvigorating industry and maintaining price stability.

As part of efforts to realize "economic justice," laws for the implementation of the concept of public ownership of land will be executed as planned, with some corrections, the statement said.

It also said the "real-name financial transaction system" will be carried out in a gradual manner in order to minimize undesirable effects.

The three leaders said their new party will guarantee maximum participation by youths, women and figures from all sectors of society.

Direct Air Route Between Seoul, Beijing Sought

SK0302025890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0252 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Seoul, Feb. 3 (YONHAP)—South Korea is seeking to open a direct air route between Seoul and Beijing before the Beijing Asian Games in September so that athletes and tourists can use the flight service, a Transportation Ministry official said Saturday.

The government will also seek a ferry service between the two countries in a bid to lure tourists, the official said. There are no formal ties between China and South Korea.

In this connection, he said, the government will push ahead with plans to initiate a Far East tourism association comprising Korea, Japan and China in a move to revive interest in the region as a tourist destination. Tourism has fallen off since the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

The tourism body will group tourist agents from the Northeast Asian countries and will function as consultative organization to promote tourism and develop tours in the region, he said.

The government hopes agreement on the flights between Beijing and Seoul will be reached in April, when Korea and the Soviet Union may conclude an accord on a route between Seoul and Moscow, the official said.

He said China has already agreed to allow Korean and Soviet passenger jets to use Chinese airspace with stopovers in Beijing or Shanghai if a Seoul-Moscow route is opened.

This agreement will help open direct flights between Korea and China and allow Korean jetliners to pass through Chinese airspace on their way to destinations other than Chinese cities, he added.

'Rapid Progress' Expected in USSR Exchanges

SK0402024590 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 4 Feb 90 p 9

[Text] Economic and trade exchanges with the Soviet Union are expected to make rapid progress from March.

In particular, Korea and the Soviet Union are likely to sign an agreement on reciprocal protection of investment and other agreements for the expansion of economic and trade cooperation.

Business circles predicted that negotiations on the opening of a direct air route between Seoul and Moscow would be completed by April.

According to the government authorities, a 20-member Soviet business delegation will visit on March 23-27, led by Vladimir Malchevich, chairman of the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

During their stay, they will reportedly set up a Korean-Soviet economic cooperation committee in order to substantiate the participation in Soviet economic development projects by Korean business concerns.

The Soviet Union invited Korean enterprises to take part in Siberian development projects and other economic plans formulated in January last year when Chong Chu-yong, founder and honorary chairman of the Hyundai group, officially visited Moscow.

However, Korean business concerns have been reluctant to participate in Soviet economic development projects because of investment risks.

Against this backdrop, the government plans to sign a pact for the guarantee of mutual investment with the Soviet Union by early April at the latest.

In the meantime, Moscow will hold a Soviet week at the Korea Exhibition Center on May 21-27 in order to generate a Soviet boom in Korea.

The Soviet Union will feature a wide range of its products during the week.

Early last year, a Korean week was held in Moscow, featuring Korean arts, culture and industrial products.

It is reported that the government will reach an accord with the Soviet Union on the opening of a direct air route between Seoul and Moscow during the Soviet week.

Cho Chung-kun, president of Korean Air, will visit Moscow before the middle of March to discuss the matter.

When the direct air route between Seoul and Moscow is realized, Korean Air plans to have its flights to Europe stop over in the Soviet capital four times per week, while other flights will pass through Soviet airspace.

Business concerns have been accelerating their efforts to expand economic and trade exchanges with Soviet Union since last year.

They have already exchanged a number of letters of memoranda with the Soviet Union for the participation in Soviet economic development projects.

Among them are Hyundai and Daewoo which have applied to the government to take part in Soviet development projects.

Specifically, Hyundai plans to build a general trading center worth $2 million in Nakhodka, the port city in the Soviet Far East, while Daewoo seeks to construct a tourist hotel in Moscow with an investment of some $5 million.

Nakhodka is one of the Soviet special economic zones which Moscow has designated in order to attract foreign capital and technology for the development of its backward economy.

Hyundai also plans to open a branch office in Nakhodka for use as a bridgehead for the exploration of the Soviet market.

USSR Koreans Move Toward Self-Governing State

SK0502044490 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 2 Feb 90 p 2

[Report by NAEWOE news agency in Seoul]

[Text] Amid the demand for independence by minority races in the Soviet Union which is being enhanced everyday, it was learned that Korean compatriots living in the Soviet Union are also making moves to establish a self-governing state, which is arousing interest.

Moscow radio reported that on 1 February, Korean representatives of various regions within the Soviet Union held a 'round-table conference for national self-determination' in Moscow, holding discussions mainly on this issue. It also reported that originally this issue was to be dealt with during the conference of the Korean-Soviet Association, which is expected to be held in the middle part of this year. However, 'considering the complication of the issue and considering the presence of various opinions,' it was decided to examine the issue of establishing a self-governing state in this conference, which was held the form of a preliminary conference.

In an interview with this radio on 31 January, Professor Vladimir, vice-chairman of the Moscow chapter of the Korean-Soviet Association, who participated in this conference said that the most pending task which the Koreans living in the Soviet Union must solve is not the establishment of a self-governing state but of establishing

a traditional culture of the Korean race and of carrying out its restoration work. He also stated that it is necessary to create more national societies and establish more organizations and theaters in order to realize this.

Counselor Yi Leaves To Open SFRY Embassy

SK0402042490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] Yi Tae-sik, a counselor at the Korean Embassy in Austria, will leave for Belgrade Monday to open the Korean Embassy there, the Foreign Ministry announced yesterday.

Yi will notify the opening of the embassy to the Yugoslavian government soon and serve as charge d'affaires until Sin Tu-pyong, who has been designated the first Korean ambassador to Yugoslavia, arrives.

Sin, former director-general for American affairs at the Foreign Ministry, will leave for Belgrade toward the end of this month.

Students Sentenced in Torture Death

SK0202031490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 2 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Nine studens from Korea and Yonsei Universities involved in the torture-death of a suspected police spy, were convicted yesterday of violence and manslaughter the Sobu Branch of the Seoul District Criminal Court.

Senior Judge No Won-ok handed down eight-year jail terms to two, seven-year terms to two, a four-year term to one and suspended terms of three years to the remaining four students.

Prosecutors sought severe punishment, from two to 15 years in jail, for all the nine, accused of torturing to death Sol In-chong, then a Tongyang Technical College student, last October.

The ill-fated student was suspected of being a police spy for his deep involvement in activist circles with a faked Yonsei student identification card.

After being taken by Yonsei students, Sol underwent questioning for two days in a student council room at the hands of the accusers who gathered there after the annual inter-university sports meet.

According to the charges, the students beat Sol with wooden clubs and forced him to confess that he was a police fraction gathering information about the student activist movement.

Sol's written confession, made under duress, was not accepted as evidence in support of the accused.

Yang Yon-chong, a 21-year-old law junior at Yonsei, and Kim Chong-pyo, a 22-year-old mass communications junior at Korea, were sentenced to eight years.

Along with Yi Son-uk, 22, of Yonsei, and Chang Yang, 26, of Korea, both sentenced to seven years in prison, Yang and Kim were responsible for committing the murder, No said.

Kim Hyon-chol, a 21-year-old political science senior at Yonsei, was given four years in jail.

"Nothing can extenuate their guilt as they committed a barbarous and inhumane crime," No said.

The court, however, released on probation four students accused of mere involvement in the lynching.

Judge No said, after granting the lenient measure, the tribunal had found Sol responsible in part for his fate as he disguised his identity with a fake student card.

Correction to Comment on Troop Reduction

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Dailies Comment on U.S. Troop Reduction," published in the 1 February East Asia DAILY REPORT, page 19:

page 20, column two, paragraph one, first sentence, make read: CHUNGANG ILBO on 30 January, page... (correcting name of paper).

Burma

Army Troops Preparing To Attack Student Camp

BK0402063090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 4 Feb 90 p 3

[Text] Tak—Two boatloads of Burmese Army troops have landed at the coastal town of Mergui in the Tenasserim Division to prepare for an offensive on a Burmese students camp near Prachuap Khiri Khan, informed sources in Ranong said yesterday.

The troops, numbering 600, disembarked from the vessels Haka and Myitkyina on Jan 25 and immediately started rounding up people in the town and nearby Ye Kan Taung Ywa in Bokpyin township 30 kms from Mergui to act as porters, the sources said.

A workforce of nine hundred people has been assembled in this manner and they have been held in the municipal compound in Mergui. The soldiers have also collected 300 kyat from each household for the upkeep of the forced-labour gang.

The students' camp, Moe Taung, near the Thai-Burmese border is about 20 kms from Prachuap Khiri Khan, the Thai western coastal province, which is 180 kms from Bangkok.

Meanwhile, about 5,000 Burmese were reported to have fled Kawthaung for Ranong, on the Thai coast opposite the Burmese border town, to escape persecution from government troops and influential people.

The fleeing Burmese who arrived in the Thai township said they had been ordered to have the roofs of their houses replaced with new corrugated iron sheets and the houses painted by Feb 8, or risk losing their house and land to the army who in turn will compensate in cash as they see fit for the confiscated property.

It is believed that the latest move by the military government to spruce up Kawthaung is to project the image of prosperity and content of the people living at the border town. The Burmese who fled the town also said that the military officers and influential citizens are in league to purchase the confiscated properties at a cheap price.

Information Committee Holds 76th News Conference

BK0302113390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] held its 76th news conference with local and foreign journalists in the reception hall of the Ministry of Defense at 1300 today. [passage omitted]

At the news conference, the Information Committee explained the military operations of our military columns in the Wawle region, and the capture of the headquarters of the KIA [Kachin Independence Army] 4th Brigade and battalions under its command.

Explaining the military operation in the Wawle region, the Information Committee said that after the capture of Thay Baw Bo camp under the command of the KNU [Karen National Union] 6th Brigade at 0900 on 25 January by our military columns, the 332d Tactical Operation Unit and three regiments under the command of the frontline 44th Light Infantry Division attacked the Wawle region where the headquarters of the KNU 6th Brigade is located. [passage omitted] About 600 armed forces from the regiments of the KNU 6th Brigade, the DAB [Democratic Alliance of Burma], the ABSDF [All-Burma Students Democratic Front], and Muslim insurgents are based in this area. [passage omitted] At 0900 on 2 February our forces captured the entire Wawle region.

Explaining the military operation against the KIA 4th Brigade and the battalions under its command, the Information Committee said that the KIA 4th Brigade Headquarters and the 2d and 9th Battalions under its command had built their bases firmly in (Maw Hpaung), Kawnglong, Hpapauk, Loi Mun, and (Mai Hpyaik) regions and had been attacking and mining passenger and cargo vehicles plying the Lashio-Mu-se road.

Military columns from the frontline 99th Light Infantry Division under the Northeast Military Command carried out the military operation against these camps under the KIA 4th Brigade Headquarters, and on 31 January the KIA 4th Brigade Headquarters and its 2d and 9th Battalions were captured. Five battles were fought during the operation against the KIA insurgents. There were no casualties on our side, but nine bodies of the KIA insurgents were recovered and 1 member of the ABSDF 401st Battalion and 43 dependents of the KIA insurgents were captured. During these battles, nine assorted weapons, 200 rounds of ammunition, electric demolition equipment, one hand operated generator, a machine gun stand, four cows, 450 baskets of paddy, and 72 buildings were captured.

Next, the Information Committee answered questions from the journalists. [passage omitted]

In response to a question from a KYODO correspondent, the Information Committee explained that the timetable for holding multiparty democratic elections includes a campaigning period for the People's Assembly candidates. The candidates contesting in the free and fair elections are allowed to campaign for three months prior to the elections. One special point to take note of is Announcement No. 2/88 of the SLORC which stipulates that political parties have the right to campaign, without infringing upon the rights of any person or organization, in order to present their policies and platforms to the people to win the people's support. However, it is forbidden to organize, speak, carry out whispering propaganda, or write with the objective of disintegrating the

Defense Services. It is further stated that effective action will be taken if such restrictions are breached. [passage omitted]

In response to a question from an ANTARA correspondent, the Information Committee explained that the BCP [Burma Communist Party] is now like a headless body and that there are only a few members of the Central Committee and their dependents at its headquarters in Pangwa. A special military operation is not necessary to crush them. [passage omitted]

In response to a question from a Tokyo Broadcasting Service correspondent, the Information Committee said that the SLORC has assigned the Elections Commission to hold elections in order to avoid any interference. Since the Elections Commission is in charge of the elections, questions related to the elections should be addressed to it; the information department of the Elections Commission would give an answer. However, since the question referred to reports saying that the SLORC has banned some persons from contesting in the elections, we shall explain. The SLORC has not banned or restricted any person or organization from contesting in the elections. The commission is carrying out work pertaining to the elections according to the prescribed law, that is the People's Assembly Elections Law. [passage omitted]

Section 10 of the Elections Law has 12 subsections dealing with persons not entitled to stand for election. Subsection E states: Persons who have acknowledged any allegiance or adherence to a foreign power, or are subjects or citizens of or who are entitled to the rights and privileges of a subject or a citizen of a foreign power.

Subsection H states: Members of organizations in armed revolt against the state; persons having links with these organizations or with its members.

Those affected by these clauses will not be able to contest in the elections. [passage omitted] These clauses were contained in the 1948 Parliamentary Election Act which is based on the 1947 Constitution, drafted by General Aung San himself. [passage omitted]

General Aung San included these clauses in the 1947 Constitution and the 1948 Parliamentary Elections Act to preempt a foreign power from interfering with the country's sovereignty. That is why these clauses were included in the present Elections Law. The Elections Law was enacted because the people and majority of the political parties accepted this fact. The Elections Commission is working in accordance with the provisions of the law. [Those] who infringe on the law will not be allowed to contest in the elections.

Any person or organization from abroad or inside the country expressing surprise at disqualification from contesting in the elections because of infringement of the law, are overlooking the law in order to satisfy their own wishes. As we have mentioned in previous press conferences, the Elections Commission is independently carrying out matters related to the election, and the Information Committee does not have to give a separate explanation. [passage omitted]

The news conference ended at 1210.

Fire in Kemmendine, Kamayut Destroys 1,173 Homes

BK0302142090 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] A fire that broke out at 1525 today in Kemmendine and Kamayut Townships in Yangon [Rangoon] Division was extinguished at 1800 this evening.

The fire started from frying pork skins in the house of U Pho Yon and U Ohn Lwin near Hanthawaddy Street and Strand Street in Thayetaw North Ward in Kemmendine Township and later spread to fourth and fifth wards in Kamayut Township.

As soon as the fire started, Brigadier General Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon Command, and responsible authorities went to the site of the fire and supervised fire extinguishing work. Twenty-one fire engines from various townships in Yangon Division and fire engines from the Ministry of Defense, the 1st Motor Vehicle Corps, the Yangon Command, and the Mingaladon Command were used in extinguishing the fire, which was put under control at 1730 and was completely extinguished at 1800.

A total of 1,173 houses in Kemmendine's Strand Street and the fourth and fifth wards in Kamayut were burned down. Authorities concerned have opened a relief camp for fire victims in the compound of No. 2 Basic Education Middle School near Kamayut Police Station and are carrying out relief work.

Major General Phone Myint, minister for home and religious affairs and for culture and information, and Brigadier General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, inspected the site of the fire, comforted the fire victims, and instructed the authorities responsible to carry out necessary relief work as soon as possible for the fire victims.

Cambodia

Australian Team Arrives To Study Peace Plan

BK0402130690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1253 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, Feb 4 (AFP)—A team of Australian officials arrived here Sunday to study the potential for a Canberra peace proposal which would put an interim U.N.-administered government in Phnom Penh. A diplomat here said the main purpose of the visit was to make an initial study of "practical and technical needs" for an eventual U.N. presence here and the mechanisms necessary to hold general elections in Cambodia.

The four-member team would allow Australia to make "concrete" proposals on the Canberra plan "before the next international or inter-Cambodian meeting which should take place in the next few weeks," the diplomat said. "The Australian mission is without a U.N. mandate but with the agreement of the permanent members of the U.N. Security Council," said a Cambodian source, who added that he considered it a "fact-finding mission."

The Australian peace plan put forward in December calls for a United Nations administration in Cambodia in the period leading up to general elections.

The team led by Robert Merrillees, a senior official in the Australian Foreign Ministry, also includes Lieutenant Colonel Russel Stuart, who took part in a U.N. fact-finding mission to Cambodia in August. Lt. Col Stuart and another team member Michael Maley, a member of Australia's electoral commission, were part of a U.N. group that helped monitor Namibia's independence from South Africa.

During their visit, the Australians will hold talks with Phnom Penh government officials and could visit Battambang and Siem Reap Provinces in the northwest as well as Kompong Cham and Kompong Son Provinces east and southwest of Phnom Penh.

The Phnom Penh government has agreed to a "major role" for the United Nations in finding a solution to the Cambodian conflict, but it has also put forward several conditions. They include the maintenance of the government of the Cambodian prime minister alongside that of the resistance coalition, and the setting up of an interim national council joining representatives of both governments which could take over Cambodia's U.N. seat, currently held by the resistance.

The Cambodian resistance groups the Khmer Rouge and followers of former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk and former Premier Son Sann.

Hun Sen Threatens To Quit Over Corruption

BK0502011590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Feb 90 p 1

[By Kawi Chongkitthawon]

[Text] Phnom Penh—Prime Minister Hun Sen has threatened to quit his post if his relatives do not stop abusing his name for personal gains.

In a three-page letter to family members and relatives in mid-December, Hun Sen urged them to stop abusing his name and warned them that if they did not heed his advice he would resign and they would have to bear the consequences.

The threat came in the wake of mounting criticism and charges of corruption against his family and relatives, according to a source.

Some government officials said that the premier wanted to show he meant what he said.

"He realized that he had to start from people closest to him if he wanted to weed out corruption," said one official.

The source, who asked not to be identified, said that Hun Sen knew fully well that some of his family members have used his name to reap personal benefits.

Hun Sen said in his letter that when a leader has no weaknesses, those who want to attack him will look to his family members.

The premier has asked his brother, Hun Neng, who is a secretary to the party committee in Kampong Cham, to arrange a meeting among family members and relatives to discuss the problem.

Over the years, charges about corruption and misuse of power by the people closest to Hun Sen have gradually increased. After the Vietnamese troop withdrawal last September, more and more media reporting has focused on this problem.

One source suggested that as a result some of his family members could be removed from key government posts to less important ones.

Rising inflation over the past few months has led to an increase in graft both within and outside the government circles. The estimated 200,000 state workers are hardest hit by price hikes because they haven't received any increase in their salary scale for the past few years.

Report on Hun Sen Interview With British Daily

BK0402090690 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Informed sources in London said that the FINANCIAL TIMES published on 26 January an interview conducted by its correspondent, John Pedler, with Comrade Hun Sen, the State of Cambodia's chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister.

On a question dealing with the settlement of the Cambodian problem, Comrade Hun Sen said: First, the State of Cambodia accepts the United Nations' participation. Second, the State of Cambodia demands that the status quo of its government and the resistance government be preserved, but that the two governments should [words indistinct] their power to the United Nations. Neither government may promulgate any law or conduct any activity which hinders a UN role or impedes the process of organizing elections. There could be international control and supervision over withdrawal of foreign forces, the cessation of military aid, and a cease-fire. Third, a national council with the participation of the two governments should be established.

The comrade chairman agreed that the national council is to represent Cambodia and occupy Cambodia's seat at the United Nations as well. This is a new component on top of Australia's proposal.

In the interview, Comrade Hun Sen pointed out the need for a cease-fire and the cessation of foreign aid to various Cambodian parties, since these conditions are necessary for holding elections.

The comrade concluded by saying: We should settle the problem this year. However, any political solution which cannot guarantee the non-return of the Pol Pot clique is unacceptable.

Official Confirms Ammunition Dump Attack

BK0302122490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Phnom Penh, Feb 3 (AFP)—A Phnom Penh official confirmed Saturday [3 February] that an ammunition depot was blown up Thursday in Sisophon, northwest Cambodia, but he played down the impact of the attack claimed by resistance guerrillas.

"The dump was not very important. This is nothing dramatic," said the official, who requested anonymity.

The attack was claimed Friday in Bangkok by Prince Norodom Sihanouk's resistance faction, one of three groups in a guerrilla coalition fighting the Phnom Penh government.

The official here said he did not know who was responsible for the attack, and denied the resistance claim that the depot was located inside the Cambodian Army's regional military headquarters compound at Sisophon.

The ammo dump was "near the people's committee building"—the local ruling party headquarters—in Sisophon, a provincial capital some 350 kilometers (220 miles) northwest of Phnom Penh and 48 kilometers (30 miles) from the Thai border.

"It's a little depot," the Phnom Penh government official said.

Prince Sihanouk's faction said Friday that six of its commandos had infiltrated the strategic town, helped by Cambodian Army soldiers, and "completely destroyed" the dump blowing up "thousands of tons of ammunition." [passage omitted]

Sisophon is defended largely by the crack troops of the Phnom Penh government's Interior Ministry.

Banteay-Meanchey Province officials said Wednesday in Sisophon that the government troops and guerrillas were engaged in sporadic but weak confrontations in the area.

"We still expect an attack on Sisophon but we will not allow the opposition to take the city. They would need to take extraordinary means to do that," an official of the provincial people's committee said.

Report on 21-27 January Battle Activities

BK0402101290 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 2300 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] According to reports from the 4th Military Region, from 21 to 27 January all armed units in the 4th Military Region jointly conducted search-and-destroy operations against and laid ambushes for the enemy who attempted to infiltrate a number of our positions. We put 115 enemy soldiers out of action, including 55 killed on the battlefield, 53 wounded, 3 captured, and 4 surrendered, and we seized 9 assorted guns and a large quantity of war materiel.

The successes gained by our combatants in the 4th Military Region together with other victories scored by other frontline armed units have inflicted heavy setbacks upon the enemy materially, morally, militarily, and politically.

People in every locality have appreciated with enthusiasm the great triumphs continuously achieved by our armed forces and have increasingly and actively become involved in the building up of the armed forces quantitatively and qualitatively.

Sihanouk Changes Name of 'Democratic Kampuchea'

BK0302111990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1038 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Beijing, Feb 3 (AFP)—Resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced here Saturday that Democratic Kampuchea would henceforth be known by its old name of Cambodia.

Prince Sihanouk, who is recognized by the United Nations as legal head of state of Democratic Kampuchea, announced the name change and said the country's former flag and national anthem would also be restored.

The moves will take immediate effect, he said in a statement he signed as "Sihanouk, president of Cambodia."

The red flag of the communist Khmer Rouge will be replaced by the "centuries' old traditional" blue and red flag depicting the Angkor Wat temple in white, the statement said. [passage omitted]

Announces 'Presidential System'

BK0302121490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1202 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Beijing, Feb 3 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced here Saturday that Democratic Kampuchea would henceforth be known by its old name of Cambodia and would be governed under a democratic presidential system. Prince Sihanouk, who is recognized by the United Nations as "legal head of state" of Democratic Kampuchea, announced the name change and said the country's former flag and national anthem would also be restored. [passage omitted]

The prince said in the statement that Cambodia would be ruled by a democratic presidential system patterned after France's 5th Republic. Prince Sihanouk, who resides in exile in Beijing, has said he would run for president if free elections can be organized in Cambodia.

"My official title as legal head of the Cambodian state, recognized as such by the United Nations, is 'president of Cambodia'," he said in the statement. The statement added that the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea will "henceforth be called 'the National Government of Cambodia'." [passage omitted]

In a letter received Thursday in Paris, the prince urged the Khmer Rouge to approve changing the national flag and national anthem in order "to improve their image." [passage omitted]

China To 'Approve' Concessions

BK0402115990 Hong Kong AFP in English 1141 GMT 4 Feb 1990

[Text] Beijing, Feb 4 (AFP)—The restoration of Cambodia's traditional name, flag and national anthem represents a triple concession by the Khmer Rouge, Prince Norodom Sihanouk said here Sunday. The prince, in a written response to questions from AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, said that China, the Khmer Rouge's main backer, would approve the concessions.

Prince Sihanouk said Saturday that 'Democratic Kampuchea'—the name given the Southeast Asian nation by a Khmer Rouge Government in 1975—would revert to its old name Cambodia and be governed by a democratic presidential system. He also announced the restoration of Cambodia's traditional flag and anthem for the U.N.-recognized resistance government.

Prince Sihanouk stressed Sunday that the three resistance factions agreed in July last year to govern the resistance coalition democratically. But the 68-year-old exiled Cambodian monarch said that it took eight years of "approaches and requests" to bring all three resistance groups to accept the changes in the name, flag and anthem. The Khmer Rouge "gave in because they are aware they have become more and more isolated and hated on the international level," Prince Sihanouk said.

Chinese backing has made the Marxist Khmer Rouge the strongest group militarily in a coalition fighting the Vietnam-backed government in Phnom Penh. The other two groups, both non-communist, are led by Prince Sihanouk—who now considers himself "President of Cambodia"—and former conservative Premier Son Sann.

Prince Sihanouk said the Khmer Rouge has realized that Western and certain non-communist Southeast Asian countries "are detaching themselves from the the resistance...to embrace the pro-Vietnamese regime of Hun Sen," the Phnom Penh premier. At the same time, 99 per cent of "patriotic" Cambodians were eager to get rid of the national name, flag and anthem imposed by Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge, which killed hundreds of thousands before they were ousted by Vietnamese troops in January 1979.

Cambodia's seat at the United Nations retains the name of 'Democratic Kampuchea.' The prince said Son Sann, premier of the government-in-exile, would take the necessary steps to implement the name change.

China had not reacted to the announced changes Sunday, though in the past it has consistently expressed support for the "sovereign decisions" of the resistance. According to Prince Sihanouk, "China can only be in favor of these changes, because it approves the things that the Khmer Rouge do for the good of ex-democratic Kampuchea and the ex-coalition government."

Prince Sihanouk's statement Saturday said the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea would "henceforth be called the 'National Government of Cambodia.'" The red flag of the Khmer Rouge would be replaced by the "centuries' old traditional" flag showing a white silhouette of the Angkor Wat Temple against a blue and red field.

Cambodia would be ruled by a democratic presidential system patterned after France's 5th Republic, the statement added.

"My official title as legal head of the Cambodian state, recognized as such by the United Nations, is 'President of Cambodia,'" the Prince said in the statement.

Prince Sihanouk on January 24 announced his resignation as head of the coalition, citing international criticism of his alliance with the Khmer Rouge, but said he was still Cambodia's head of state.

Sihanouk Reportedly To Return 'Late February'

HK0502120290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1149 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Beijing, Feb 5 (AFP)—Prince Norodom Sihanouk announced here Monday that he would "definitively" return to Cambodia in late February to live in "liberated territories" held by the Cambodian resistance.

The prince made the announcement in a statement to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

"As a Cambodian patriot, my duty is to return to my beloved homeland and to permanantly dedicate myself to its well-being," Prince Sihanouk said.

Prince Sihanouk said he would return to Cambodia at the end of the third week in February or in the beginning of the fourth.

"Today, I have the honor of announcing that...I will return and install myself definitively in liberated zones in Cambodia with the ANS (the National Sihanoukist Army)," he said, referring to the non-communist resistance force he heads.

The former Cambodian monarch said he would return to his homeland after brief visits to Thailand and Singapore.

"Each year, I will have the honor of making friendly visits to the People's Republic of China and the Democratic People's Republic of (North) Korea," said the prince, who lives here in exile.

He said he would visit the two nations to take part in China's National Day celebrations on October 1, and the April 15 birthday of North Korean President Kim Il-song.

He also said that, if welcomed, he would make "private friendly visits" to Bangkok.

Prince Sihanouk's ANS is one of two non-communist forces linked to the Marxist Khmer Rouge in a resistance coalition which is battling to topple a Hanoi-installed government in Phnom Penh.

Prince Sihanouk announced January 24 that he would resign his post as titular head of the resistance but said he would continue to maintain his post as U.N.-recognized "head of state."

ANS Reports Capturing Oddar-Meanchey Position

BK0302090690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0400 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] According to a report from Sihanoukist National Army [ANS] General Staff, the 5th and 12th brigades of the ANS forces completely destroyed a Vietnamese-Heng Samrin outpost and a BTR-60 armored personnel carrier in a 20-minute battle at Kol, along Route 68, on 28 January.

The ANS General Staff further said that at midnight on 29 January, fighters of the same ANS brigades attacked and seized control of an important enemy position at Kbal Sar in Samroang District, Oddar-Meanchey Province. After 45 minutes of fighting, the ANS forces completely occupied the base, killed eight and wounded 13 enemy soldiers, and seized a great quantity of ammunition.

Khieu Samphan Confirms UN Role in Settlement

BK0302012290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 2 Feb 90

["Confirmation on the United Nations' role in the comprehensive settlement of the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia and in ensuring permanent peace for Cambodia" signed by Khieu Samphan, vice president of Democratic Kampuchea in charge of foreign affairs; dated 2 February 1990—read by announcer]

[Text] The world has been well aware since the beginning that Democratic Kampuchean President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea [CGDK] have always realized that the United Nations has a very important role in comprehensively settling and ending the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia and in ensuring permanent peace and security for Cambodia. On this occasion, we would like to recall only the recent official documents issued by Democratic Kampuchean President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the CGDK as follows:

1. In November 1988, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk proposed a five-point peace plan.

2. On 9 February 1989, the CGDK, with the approval of Democratic Kampuchean President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, proposed the modalities for the implementation of this five-point peace plan.

3. Later, the CGDK issued a memorandum entitled: The Vitally Important Role of the International Control Mechanism of the United Nations. Democratic Kampuchean President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk had examined, modified, and approved this memorandum on 20 June 1989.

According to these official documents of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the CGDK, the United Nations has the role in jointly settling the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia comprehensively and in ensuring permanent peace and security as follows:

1) The United Nations shall supervise the withdrawal of all categories of Vietnamese forces from Cambodia.
2) The United Nations shall supervise the cease-fire after an agreement is reached on the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian problem.
3) The United Nations shall supervise the disarming of all Cambodian factions under a concrete agreement.
4) The United Nations shall ensure the conditions for the establishment of an equal provisional quadripartite government of Cambodia headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk.
5) The United Nations shall join with the provisional quadripartite government of Cambodia in conducting a clear and concrete census of the Cambodian people.
6) The United Nations shall see to it that elections are held in a free and democratic manner.
7) The United Nations shall send the UN International Peacekeeping Force to be stationed in Cambodia for a period of five or 10 years with sufficient personnel and sufficient means for ensuring peace, security, and stability in Cambodia.
8) The United Nations shall ensure that Cambodia remains independent, neutral, and nonaligned with its own territorial integrity, and that it forever pursue a liberal economic system, liberal democracy, and a multiparty system.

Therefore, the world can see clearly that Democratic Kampuchean President Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the CGDK have a clear and permanent view that the United Nations has a very important role in the settlement of the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia, so as to enable the Cambodian people to really enjoy the right to decide their own destiny and to ensure peace, security, and stability in Southeast Asia.

Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the CGDK realize that only with the UN International Control Mechanism and the UN International Peacekeeping Force having sufficient number of personnel, sufficient means, and a definite time-table to supervise the withdrawal of all Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia can there be a national reconciliation among all Cambodians. Only when the puppet regime installed by the Vietnamese aggressors is dissolved simultaneously with the state of Democratic Kampuchea, which is a legal state and member of the United Nations, and when a provisional quadripartite government headed by Samdech Norodom Sihanouk is established can there be a genuine national reconciliation among all Cambodians.

4. Only after all Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia and when there is a national reconciliation among all Cambodians, regardless of their past or political tendencies, can there be sufficient conditions for the United Nations to fully play its role in Cambodia; can Cambodia enjoy peace and stability; and can peace, security, and stability in Southeast Asia be free from threat.

On 1 January 1990, the Phnom Penh puppets, at the order of the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors, announced that they accepted the UN role. But they did not give any clear confirmation, as the CGDK has done above. For example, they did not stress the UN role to supervise the total withdrawal of Vietnamese aggressor forces from Cambodia, nor the arrangement for national reconciliation among all Cambodians. They did not stress what would become of the Phnom Penh regime.

Why did the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors order their puppets to make this announcement? What is their objective and what is the occasion? The world may see clearly that in ordering their puppets to make this announcement, the Hanoi Vietnamese aggressors are preparing to deceive other people at a certain place as they have done before. Their objective has not changed. That is, they want to deceive the world through a certain act in order to maintain the puppet regime and to be able to continue hiding their aggressor forces in Cambodia—inside the puppet ministries and departments, in the puppet administration, and in the puppet army—for use in carrying on their aggression against and occupation of Cambodia.

I have recalled the stance of Samdech Norodom Sihanouk and the CGDK as mentioned above in order to enable world public opinion to compare it with the deceitful announcement of the Hanoi authorities and the Phnom Penh puppets and to make a judgment for themselves.

[Dated] 2 February 1990

[Signed] Khieu Samphan, vice president of Democratic Kampuchea in charge of Foreign Affairs

Communes in Angkor Wat Vicinity 'Liberated'

BK0402004090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 3 Feb 90

["Special report"]

[Text] On 29, 30, and 31 January, our national resistance forces attacked and swept the Vietnamese-puppet positions along the road leading from Angkor Thom to Peak Sneng and dispersed and freed Vietnamese-puppet village and commune administrators in three communes—namely Angkor Thom, Peak Sneng, and Chup—in Siem Reap District.

We killed 7 Vietnamese-puppet soldiers and wounded 15 others; destroyed a battalion position, 7 company positions, 3 commune office buildings, 2 bridges in areas between Angkor Thom and Peak Sneng totaling 10 meters long, and a quantity of war materiel; and seized 10 AK's and 7 SK's. We liberated 17 villages—namely Bamping Reach Chas, Bam Penh Reach Thmei, Spean, Trapeang Svay, and Ta Prok in Angkor Thom Commune; Sandan, Chup Kraom, Peak Sneng Chas, Peak Sneng Thmei, Ting, Liep Thmei, and Liep Chas in Peak Sneng Commune; and Trapeang Tuk, Chup, Prasat, Toap Svay, and Pong Toek in Chup Commune. We freed two Cambodian soldiers and many village administrators.

Slap Leng Township Reportedly Liberated

BK0402143790 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] On 31 January, our national resistance forces attacked Slap Leng Township and completely dispersed and freed the Vietnamese-puppet village and communal officials in Kbea Commune, Kong Pisei District, southwest of the Phnom Penh battlefield. We killed 13 enemy soldiers on the spot and wounded 17 others, destroyed six AK's, seized 55 AK and SKS rifles, and some ammunition and war materiel. We liberated the Slap Leng Township, one commune, and the following five villages: Slap Leng, Phsa Chas, Phsa Thmei, Preah Mlup, and Kbea, and freed 17 village officials.

Indonesia

Alatas on Jakarta 'Informal Meeting on Cambodia'

BK0502112790 Jakarta ANTARA in English 1055 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 5 (OANA/ANTARA)—Foreign Minister Ali Alatas rejected the assumption that the meeting scheduled to be held in Jakarta by the end of this month among the warring factions in Cambodia and a number of other countries would be a continuation of the Jakarta informal meeting (JIM) or JIM Plus.

"We call the next meeting informal meeting on Cambodia to remove the impression that it is a continuation of JIM," Ali Alatas told a meeting with the House Foreign Affairs Commission here Monday. The informal meeting on Cambodia, he added, will be attended by the four conflicting Cambodian factions, the six member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Vietnam, Laos, and France.

The previous meeting held in Paris, he said, did not produce any comprehensive solution as no accord had ben achieved between the parties directly involved with regard to the modality of a cease-fire, the setting up of an international control body, the formation of a provisional government, efforts at preventing a return of the Pol Pot regime and the Vietnamese settlers in Cambodia.

In the meantime, the Australian proposal which basically proposed that the United Nations acts as an interim authority during the transitional period up to the holding of a general elections in Cambodia, was given a favourable response from various sides, from those directly involved in the dispute and from interested countries.

The Australian foreign minister's idea, Alatas added, was not designed to seek a compromise among the opposing positions, but was a new shortcut, namely the formation of an interim authority by the United Nations up to the holding of a truly free and just general elections under the supervision of the United Nations.

At present, he added, the Indonesian Government was still awaiting a confirmation on the participation of all the parties invited to the informal meeting on Cambodia in Jakarta, on the proposed dates of February 26 through 28.

Previous consultations had shown that all the parties involved and interested sides have expressed agreement to attend the meeting. Australia will send a resource delegation as the meeting will be using the Australian idea as one of the basis for the deliberations.

"The latest developments appear to be sufficient basis for a hope that the informal meeting on Cambodia would achieve concrete results in attempts at reaching a comprehensive political settlement of the Cambodian dispute," Alatas said with optimism. However he also reminded that it must be realized that the positions of the conflicting parties on the details of the problem still considerably differed one from the other, so that the forthcoming meeting would still have difficulties to be ironed out. The forthcoming informal meeting, he added, would be a preliminary meeting expected to facilitate the Paris conference to be held afterwards towards conclusive results.

Official Rejects AFL-CIO Labor Abuse Charge

BK0302092090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Jakarta, Feb 3 (AFP)—Indonesia rejects charges of labour abuse by a top U.S. trade union organisation which could jeopardise the country's right to U.S. trade privileges, an Indonesian official said here Saturday.

Junior Trade Minister Sudrajat Jiwandono, speaking after meeting President Suharto, said he had told U.S. officials during a recent visit to Washington that the charges by the local office of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) were baseless.

Indonesian workers were not forced to join the All Indonesian Workers Association (SPSI), criticised by the AFL-CIO as more accustomed to control than the promotion of union interests, Mr. Jiwandono said.

Workers also had the legal right to strike, Mr. Jiwandono said, adding that in Indonesia they preferred to settle disputes in keeping with the national philosophy of "consensus through deliberation" to avoid strikes. At the same time, workers also enjoyed the right to negotiate directly with their employers, he added.

The AFL-CIO, citing alleged violations of workers' rights, has called on Washington for three years running to drop Indonesia from the list of countries enjoying reduced tarifs under the generalized system of preferences (GSP).

Mr. Jiwandono said U.S. officials had expressed their appreciation for his clarifications and would consider them when making a final decision on the AFL-CIO charges and Indonesia's continued right to GSP privileges.

Washington's decision is expected in April.

Laos

Press Release on Party, State Sessions

BK0302133890 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0500 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Undated "press release" on the 9th plenary session of the fourth party Central Committee, and a four and a half-day enlarged session of the Council of Ministers]

[Text] Under the chairmanship of Comrade Kaysone Phomvihan, general secretary and chairman of the Council of Ministers, the 9th plenary session of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] was successfully convened from 17 to 24 January 1990. The session assessed the internal and international situations by emphasizing the following important contents:

In the past year, the world situation has continued to develop and change rapidly. The imperialists and reactionary forces have not yet abandoned their scheme of using force. In addition, they have tried in every way to effect a peaceful change and to interfere in, subvert, and destroy the socialist countries and independent and sovereign countries, thereby threatening peace and security in many regions of the world. As for Southeast Asia,

even though confusion continues, the situation is developing in a positive direction—for example, in the settlement of the Cambodian problem, which will contribute to turning this region into a zone of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation.

The session also decided that the East European socialist countries are continuing to carry out changes in their respective countries. At the same time, the session noted that the situations in those countries were changing in a rapid, complicated manner caused by certain subjective and objective conditions. Nonetheless, we firmly believe that the imperialists and reactionary forces will not be able to completely destroy the fruits of the material, moral, social, ideological, and political foundations created by and profoundly imbedded in the East European countries. The genuine communists and people with ardent traditions and lofty ideals will manage to overcome all difficulties and to restore the people's faith in them, and will resolve the crisis and take their countries forward.

At the same time, the session reaffirmed the foreign policy of peace, independence, sovereignty, and friendship pursued by our party and state.

In connection with the internal situation, the session determined that grain production this year has been more productive than in previous years. The policy of applying a new economic structure and economic management mechanisms is beneficial in stimulating and promoting economic enterprises in the country to increase production and to step up goods circulation to enlarge the markets. Economic relations with foreign countries have also been increased. Scores of foreign companies have invested in our country. A number of new factors and outstanding examples in business production have also emerged. The communications network has been expanded. The living conditions of people living in production-oriented and goods-circulation areas have been noticeably improved. Work on turning to the grassroots has been vigorously promoted. Through this process, the strength of unity throughout all the masses and the awareness of self-mastery in earning their own living and building and safeguarding their own homes have been consolidated.

The elections to the people's councils at various levels held in the past year have served to consolidate, upgrade, and strengthen the people's democratic rights one step further.

National defense and public security maintenance work has been guaranteed. Though encountering numerous difficulties, our armed forces remain firm and have advanced to become self-dependent and to build their own strength, and they are able to smash all of the enemy's subversive schemes, thereby securely safeguarding our sovereignty, territorial integrity, and social order.

Efforts have also been made to step up diplomatic work and expand international relations work. As a result, the influence of our party and state has been incessantly elevated. More assistance and support have been secured and acquired from fraternal and friendly countries and international organizations, thus creating favorable international conditions for our people [to carry out] national defense and construction tasks.

These achievements and victories have proven that our party's line of effecting a new change is correct, innovative, and timely, and conforms to our people's aspirations and to the overall trend of the epoch. They have also displayed the enthusiasm and determination of the party and administrative committees at all levels and the perseverance of all cadres, party members, and multiethnic people throughout the country. All this has been achieved thanks to important assistance and support rendered by the fraternal and friendly countries in the international community.

Parallel with these achievements and victories, we have also experienced numerous difficulties as follows:

Production, especially of goods, has developed slowly. Our economy has suffered deficits in many fields. Agricultural production remains unstable. Forest destruction has continued alarmingly. The process of industrial production is still in a slow position. No attention has been paid to promoting handicraft work. Communication, transport, and postal services are still not thorough. The living conditions of people in remote and inaccessible areas, tribal people in mountainous regions, cadres and state employees in the administrative and technical services, soldiers, and policemen have been plagued with numerous difficulties.

National defense and public security maintenance work has been plagued with holes in which a lack of vigilance frequently occurs. Security and social order in some localities are not tight. Education, public health, information, and cultural services remain inadequate.

All of these remaining deficiencies and weakpoints have been caused by numerous shortcomings. For example, our starting point remains very rudimentary; the period of development and construction is still short; the climatic conditions are unfavorable; and the enemies and bad elements continue to carry out subversive activities against our country. The primary cause, however, is that our appreciation of the line of new change is not yet profound, the translating of this line into detailed plans remains slow, and the application of the new economic management mechanisms remains weak and inconclusive because we are still combining old mechanisms with new ones.

The plenary session also agreed on the overall orientation and duties for the year 1990 as follows: Further enhance the tradition of patriotism; hold aloft a sense of revolutionary vigilance; strengthen unity among the multiethnic people and strata; firmly adhere to the cause of restructuring on the basis of the six principles outlined in the party Central Committee's eighth resolution; persevere in fulfilling the fundamental tasks outlined by

the fourth party congress; continue to [carry out] new change in the party leadership; promote and strengthen democracy within the party and in the entire society; create unification at the higher level and close relations between the party and the people; consolidate faith and ardor among all cadres, party members, and people; determine to overcome all difficulties and trials in the new situation; and firmly march forward to make effective preparations for the convening of the fifth party congress.

All this is aimed at continuing to more firmly improve, consolidate, upgrade, and develop the popular democratic system step by step.

To translate the spirit of the party Central Committee's 9th plenary session into detailed plans, the Council of Ministers also convened an enlarged meeting for four and a half days beginning on 29 January 1990. The session reviewed and assessed the situation in 1990 and discussed in detail the application of the new mechanisms and the plans and budgets for 1990, which will be submitted to the forthcoming session of the Supreme People's Assembly.

Enlarged Meeting of Council of Ministers Closes

BK0502104190 Vientiane KPL in English 0858 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 5 (KPL)—An enlarged conference of the Council of Ministers held here from January 29 to February 2, 1990 ended with success. It was attended by the Politburo members, secretariat, members and alternate members of the party Central Committee, ministers and deputy ministers.

Under the chairmanship of the Council of Ministers' Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan the conference heard the report on the 1989 activities in implementing the socioeconomic development plan and budget. Also heard were the 1990 plan and budget for socioeconomic development.

According to the review, in 1989 the national economy saw a continued growth: The gross national product increased by 18 percent against 1988, of which 4 percent were from domestic production.

Of the GNP [gross national product], 65 percent were from agriculture, 12 percent from industry, 14 percent from trade, and 9 percent from other sectors. In other works, 35 percent were derived from the state and collective sectors and 65 percent from the private sector.

The conference thoroughly scrutinised both weak and strong points as well as their causes, which indicated that in 1989 the party policy on restructuring proved to be effective. It strongly stimulated the overall development of the goods production and distribution, the widening of the relations and cooperation with foreign countries, hence all contributing to the improvement in the people's livelihood as a whole at a certain level.

Despite the achievement, the conference noted that not enough attention was paid to domestic production and to the promotion of the national economic potential. Thus, this caused a serious imbalance of the economy, which still depends extensively on foreign countries, the high rate of inflation, the difficulties to the livelihood of people at large and the low quality of the education, public health, culture and information.

In the face of such a situation, the conference emphasized the need for the translation of the party line into concrete comprehensive programmes, procedures, and policies corresponding to reality, the stepping up of the homogeneous control and management based on centralized democratic principle and on law, the enhancement of the responsibilities at all levels and the close combination of socioeconomic development and national defence and local security.

The conference also stressed the implementation of the party guidelines on introducing a new mechanism and moving to grass roots, rural and mountain areas.

Annual Conference on Party Propaganda Closes

BK0302153590 Vientiane KPL in English 0927 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 3 (KPL)—The annual Conference on Propaganda, Educational and Cultural Affairs wound up here on February 2 after a one-week session.

The conference was attended by officials in the field from the central organ, provinces, mass organisations and provinces.

The participants worked out orientations, plans for the 1990's propaganda, educational and cultural affairs including streamlining of organisational structure, operation method, regulations, and some elaborate action plans for the preparation for the celebration of the top grand events in 1990 and the execution of the resolutions of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 9th plenums of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] (IV Congress).

In his closing address, Somlat Chanthamat, secretary of the LPRP CC, head of the Propaganda and Training Board of the LPRP CC, on behalf of the president of the conference, stressed the six major tasks of the ideological and cultural affairs in 1990: the enhancement of the trust in the leadership of the LPRP, the new regime, and the socialist goals, the enhancement of vigilance against the enemy's expansion.

Phoumi Vongvichit Addresses Intellectuals

BK0302153790 Vientiane KPL in English 0924 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 3 (KPL)—A meeting of more than 300 prominent public figures and intellectuals of Vientiane prefecture was organized here on Feb. 2 by the Lao Front for National Construction (LFNC).

The participants heard an address by Phoumi Vongvichit, Politburo member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] Central Committee, acting president of the republic, and LFNC president, on the world and domestic situations, and the present duties of citizens in national defence and construction, especially prominent public figures and intellectuals.

The participants also expressed their concern and desire to contribute to the national development in accordance with the line and policy of the LPRP. They also held a unaminous view on their task and roles in educating and culturing the youger generation to take part in the revolutionary movement of the masses and enhance the people's master right.

Activities of Japanese Delegation Reported

BK0302135890 Vientiane KPL in English 0947 GMT 3 Feb 90

["Laos-Japan: Economic Cooperation"—KPL headline]

[Text] Vientiane, Feb 3 (KPL)—Following last November's visit to Japan by the Lao President of the Council of Ministers Kaysone Phomvihan, an important delegation of Japan has now visited the LPDR [Lao People's Democratic Republic] for a consultation and the working out of a multiform cooperation program between the two countries.

It is the first time a Japanese delegation at such a level has paid a visit to Laos for this purpose. The delegation, made up of seven important authorities of the Japanese volunteer organisation for development, is led by Mr. Fananori Kitamura, director to the research and program division of the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Here the Japanese delegation has met with its Lao counterpart led by Deputy Minister of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations Dr. Kithong Vongsai, during which they focussed on working out the cooperation program for 1990 and on the study of several cooperation projects such as the economic development and technical assistance projects, the program for the Japanese volunteers in Laos, and the feasibility study of five development projects:

The Ngum River bridge construction project at Tha Ngon, the hydroelectric dam construction project at Letam River, (?bordering) Sekong and Attopeu [provinces], the sewage project in Vientiane prefecture and the rural development project in Savannakhet.

Their discussion centred on the program of having Japanese volunteers (JICA) in Laos, the programme disrupted in 1975. Laos was the first country to which the JICA sent its volunteers in 1965 to participate in the development.

The sides agreed to start this year the activities of the JICA in Laos.

So far, already 12 Japanese experts have been sent here within the framework of technical assistance program of Japan to Laos.

Laos, on its part, has sent two personnel to Japan to attend the training program starting in 1987. In 1988, the Japanese Government had increased its scholarships to Laos to 14 and by 1989, 18 Lao benefited from this scholarship programme.

The delegation will visit Tha Ngon to look at the progress made within the Japanese development project at Vientiane Plain and the river port construction project at km 4. Also, the delegation will meet with Mr. Khamsai Souphanouvong, deputy-minister of economy, planning, and finance.

Philippines

Aquino Answers Questions About U.S. Bases

HK0502095990 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 5 Feb 90

[News conference by President Corazon Aquino at Malacanang Palace—slantlines denote passage in English—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Here is my question, Madame. Our government protested to the United States about its failure to honor its aid commitments. There is a call for you to give notice of termination regarding the bases because the U.S. Government has failed to fulfill its promise to give $360 million to a military assistance program and $200 million for the Philippine Assistance Program. Do you plan to issue a notice of termination of the bases to pressure the U.S. Government into honoring its commitments to us?

[Aquino] I suppose you still remember that I had stated that by September 1990, /I will be already giving notice of termination of the bases agreement./ You must also know that I have instructed Secretary Manglapus to convey our disappointment and concerns to Ambassador Platt about the U.S. Government's failure to comply with the terms /which were laid down under the Manglapus-Shultz agreement./ The Americans are now claiming that the commitments were to be honored over a period of two years, not one year, and they said that they can comply with the terms over the two-year term of the Manglapus-Shultz agreement. /At any rate, since we will be having the exploratory talks—we have already announced that we are ready to start exploratory talks. Secretary Manglapus will just decide together with Ambassador Platt when the exploratory talks will begin./ The first instruction to our bases panel at the exploratory talks is for them to convey our disappointments and concerns over the U.S. failure to fulfill their promise in the Manglapus-Shultz agreement.

And when Secretary Cheney arrives, I will also direct Secretary Ramos to raise the issue with him.

[Reporter] /There are reports quoting an internal memorandum of the U.S. AID that a group of American and Japanese businessmen, aided by active and retired U.S. State Department officials, is working on measures that will pave the way for the retention of the U.S. bases for 20 more years after 1991. Among the measures the group is working on is a debt-reduction package and a joint military-commercial use of the bases. Can you comment on this and has such an arrangement been broached to you by U.S. officials?/

[Aquino] You know, we have not even begun the exploratory talks. /And besides, I have already said that this matter, and initially, the matter of non-fulfilment of the commitments by the American government with regard to the Manglapus-Shultz agreement will be taken up by the exploratory talks panel. Insofar as our other options are concerned, the legislative-executive bases council which is looking for alternative options to the use of the bases will be ready by September of this year to present to us their recommendations on the alternative use of the bases./

[Reporter] /Good afternoon, Mrs President. The reward for the capture of coup leader Gregorio Honasan was raised the other day from 1 million pesos to 5 million pesos. Before the December coup attempt, the military and even you, Mrs. President, belittled the capability of Honasan to recruit more followers and mount another coup. Is this now an admission that the armed forces has miscalculated the capability of Honasan? And with the bounty raised through contributions from traders, do you believe that Honasan can already be captured?/

[Aquino] /Well, I am saying that in view of the fact that we have been successful in capturing some of the leaders of the last coup attempt, I believe that the increase in the reward money will further encourage people from the civilian sector to give us information which will hopefully lead to the capture of Honasan and company./

[Reporter] /Madame, a follow-up. Can't the military track down on the whereabouts of the coup leaders and bring them to jail without cash reward because there has been perception that arresting coup leaders with cash rewards has become a business to some people in the military. And can you give us an accounting of the amount given or rewarded to civilian informers and to military agents?/

[Aquino] /You know, you cannot give the names of the civilian informers. Otherwise, the enemy will know who these informers are. This is customary in the matter of reward money. I think what is important is the capture of these coup plotters should be sufficient proof that indeed there were informers which led to the successful apprehension of the suspected coup plotters./

House Urges Termination of Bases Agreement

HK0502042190 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Leaders of the House of Representatives warned on what they said is the futility of renegotiating the bilateral Military Bases Agreement with the inability of the United States to remit its unpaid balance of $96-million for the use of their military facilities.

Representative Miguel Romero, Edcel Lagman, Albertito Lopez, and Rodolfo Valencia urged President Aquino instead to officially notify the U.S. government on the termination of the agreement next year. They also urged the implementation of a resolution written by Representative Jose de Venecia , chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, urging the immediate transfer of Camp Crame, Camp Aguinaldo, Fort Bonifacio, and Nichols Air Base in Metro Manila to Clark Air Base in Pampanga.

Union Protests Subic Naval Base Layoffs

HK0502041190 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 5 Feb 90 pp 1, 10

[By Roger Garcia]

[Text] Olongapo City—A total of 102 Filipino workers at the Subic naval base will be laid off today and 165 others will be assigned to lower positions and forced to work part-time in what the base union said was a violation of the recent collective bargaining agreement.

The 267 workers from the Moral, Welfare and Recreation (MWR), most of them permanent employes with some 10 to 20 years of service, will be affected by the memorandum on the "reduction in force (RIF) and conversion of employment status" issued by the commander of the Pacific Fleet, Rear Admiral Roger Lee Rich Jr.

As this developed, the 22,000-strong Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Association (FFCEA) protested the move of base authorities, saying that the mass lay-off was "not in accordance with the newly signed Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA).

Roberto A. Flores, president of the FFCEA, said the reduction in force was made without giving notice or adequate time to the union officials so they could notify their members of the layoffs.

"The time frame was too short. We were not given ample time to discuss matters with the union members and, on top of it, they would like to enforce the mass lay-off as soon as possible. Clearly, their actions were a gross violation of the recently concluded CBA," Flores said.

He said that barely three weeks after the CBA was signed by both union and management panel, Subic authorities are already violating the CBA. In a letter to Rich, Flores said that in cases of layoffs, the CBA provides that the union shall be consulted on the possible dates of any

termination proceedings before directly notifying the affected employes. "This provision in the CBA protects the Filipino workers' rights, so that the affected workers would be given 'placement assistance' to other U.S. Armed Forces facilities or the employe may be placed in available vacancies of equivalent rate and pay for which they qualify," Flores said.

The 102 workers will be terminated outright from the MWR while 165 will assigned lower grade positions and will become part-time workers, meaning, their regular work hours will be reduced from eight hours to only three or four hours.

MWR is the head agency for all recreational facilities inside Subic and Cubi Point. It includes restaurants, snack shops, bowling centers and other recreational outlets.

Flores said the conversion of workers to lower grade positions was tantamount to a layoff because it involved a change of employment status entitling the affected employes to severance pay. Their abolished positions can not be reestablished for a minimum of 180 days after completion of the conversion. Meanwhile, Flores said U.S. base authorities cited "budgetary constraints" as the reason for the lay-offs.

Asked if the layoffs had got something to do with the already approved proposal by the U.S. Congress to a five percent across-the-board cut on military spending, Flores said: "Wala kaming pakialam sa pagtitpid nila. Ilagay naman nila sa ayos ang pagpapatupad nito. Marami sa ating base workers ang mawawalan ng hanapbuhay pag hinayaan natin ang gusto nilang mangyari [We don't mind their efforts to economize as long as they do it properly. Many of our base workers will lose their jobs if we let them do what they want]," he said.

Ramos Warns Against Aid Cutback for Military

HK0502125990 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos today reacted sharply to the decision of the American Congress to cut by 60 million dollars the military assistance program to the Philippines. Ramos warned that the decision will set back the Armed Forces' modernization program.

The defense secretary said the Philippines was banking heavily on the pledge of then President Ronald Reagan to give 200 million dollars to the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] for 1990. Ramos said that with the 60 million dollars cut, the capability of the Armed Forces will be diminished.

NPA Reportedly Attacks Village, Kills Two

HK0502104190 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 0900 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] New People's Army [NPA] rebels attacked Sitio Komor, Barangay Yukuhol, Davao City. Nineteen rebels attacked Barangay Yukuhol in an effort to locate some military informers. According to a report, the rebels ransacked houses and killed two anti-communist vigilantes. The residents of Barangay Yukuhol belong to the Ituman tribe. Apart from ransacking two stores, the rebels also burned several trucks which are used in construction.

Muslim Rebels Said To Burn Houses in Cotabato

HK0102132790 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1300 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Muslim rebels have burned a total of 17 houses in a barangay in Pikit, North Cotabato. This took place during the military operation in the area aimed at driving away from Pikit Moro Islamic Liberation Front forces.

Second List of 20 Wanted Coup Plotters Released

HK0502100990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Department of National Defense today released a second list of wanted rebel soldiers and corresponding cash rewards for their arrests. Speaking at a press conference, Secretary Fidel Ramos said that an additional 7 million pesos has been alloted as reward money for the capture of 20 rebel soldiers involved in the recent coup d'etat. Included in the list is Lieutenant Colonel Marcelino Malahakan of the Philippine Army whose arrest will bring the informer 1 million pesos.

Secretary Ramos said that the cash reward for the arrest of the rebel soldiers was raised by both public and private sectors.

Following is an excerpt of Secretary Ramos' statements:

[Begin recording in English—in progress] ...300,000. The basis for these rewards being given is for military or ex-military—ex meaning that cases are still in the courts because they were also involved in the 28th August 1987 coup attempt. Therefore, those cases started when they were still in the active military service, although since then they have either been discharged, dismissed, or separated from the active service of the Armed Forces. [end recording]

De Villa Clarifies Military Losses in Coup

HK0502125190 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 5 Feb 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] Damages caused by the December coup attempt to the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] are estimated at 470 million pesos, including losses in arms and ammunition. This was revealed by AFP chief General Renato de Villa before the Senate defense committee. The breakdown of the damages is as follows: Philippine Navy, 170 million pesos; Philippine Army, more than 23

million pesos; Air Force, around 216 million; Philippine Constabulary, around 28 million; and for other support units, 32 million pesos.

De Villa also said that it will take almost 10 years before disparities in the promotion of Philippine Military Academy [PMA] graduates and reserve officers can be corrected. According to him, the two lists of officers slated for promotion will be integrated. At present, there are two lists for promotion, one for PMA graduates while the other, for reserves.

Military Agency To Speed Prosecution for Graft

HK0302064590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 3 Feb 90 pp 1, 6

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen Renato de Villa has established a "more powerful and effective" military agency to hasten the prosecution of senior officers, including generals, facing graft and unexplained wealth charges.

Rear Admiral Emerson Tangan, AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] vice chief of staff, was named to head the Office of Ethical Standards for Public Accountability (Oespa). It replaces the AFP Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Agency (AFPAGCA) and the AFP Anti-Graft Board established in 1986 shortly after President Aquino came into power.

Military sources said OESPA's establishment was in answer to the growing clamor among younger military officers for an immediate stop to alleged rampant graft and corruption in the AFP. The sources also said Tangan's appointment indicated the AFP leadership's determined attempt to rid the military of corrupt elements which have been raised as an issue in the past coup attempts against the Government.

"We really mean business this time," Tangan told reporters yesterday. "It is not that graft and corruption in the military is widespread but we want to restore credibility and confidence in the organization." In his order, de Villa placed the OESPA directly under his office. It was also ordered to file its reports and recommendations on cases to his office instead of to the AFP inspector-general.

According to sources, de Villa ordered AFPAGCA's abolition because it was not "performing its mission well. The AFP anti-graft board was also abolished because it was duplicating the functions of AFPAGCA.

But Col Manuel Mendiola, former AFPAGCA head, explained that senior military officers being investigated "simply ignored and belittled" their summonses. What can we do? The office was only headed by a senior colonel and it had difficulty summoning generals for investigation," Mendiola lamented. He also cited several "unpleasant" experiences which he and his members had in dealing with senior officers accused of unexplained and ill-gotten wealth charges.

At the same time, Mendiola complained that the AFP antigraft board, headed by retired Brigadier General Manuel Flores, was duplicating his agency's function and was even taking over some of the cases it was investigating.

He cited as an example the ill-gotten wealth complaint filed against retired Brigadier General Tomas Dumpit two years ago.

Thailand

Reactions to Murders of Saudi Embassy Officials

Embassy Threatens Withdrawal

BK0402011090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 4 Feb 90 p 1

[Excerpts] The Saudi Arabian Embassy stopped issuing visas yesterday after the kingdom banned recruitment of Thai workers following the killing of three of its embassy officials in Bangkok on Thursday.

It also threatened to repatriate its diplomats from Thailand unless Thai authorities find the killers of four Saudis, including last week's victims, murdered in Bangkok since January last year.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken the necessary measures to stop the recruitment of labourers from Thailand," Prince Ahmed bin Abdul Aziz, undersecretary at the Interior Ministry, told the Saudi AL-JAZIRAH newspaper.

Describing Thursday's shootings as "an ugly and shocking action that affects us all," the Prince urged the Thai Government to punish the perpetrators. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said he has already talked to the Saudi Ambassador and was told Saudi Arabia feels that if her officials are not provided with safety here the country "saw no necessity to maintain officials" in Thailand.

"The Saudi Embassy in Bangkok has already stopped issuing visas indefinitely," ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi said.

A high-ranking Thai Foreign Ministry official told the BANGKOK POST last night that a Saudi Embassy staffer was also flown out of Bangkok on Friday night for security reasons after he had received threats from anonymous callers.

The Saudi Embassy was now staffed by five members who have been given special protection, the official said.

An informed police source disclosed that three Saudi officials, including a director-general of political affairs, arrived in Bangkok from Riyadh yesterday to cooperate with Thai police.

The source said investigation of the murder of a Saudi diplomat in January last year had not been very successful because there had been little cooperation from officials of the Saudi Embassy. [passage omitted]

Another senior Foreign Ministry official last night explained that Riyadh did not threaten to repatriate its diplomats in Bangkok, but simply expressed its concern about their safety.

"If there is no guarantee of their safety, then they will have to go home," said the official, who preferred to remain anonymous.

He said the visa section at the Saudi Embassy had been closed temporarily and the issue of visas suspended.

"The Thai Government regards the crime as serious and has tried its best to resolve the incident," said the official, adding the Thai Government had kept Riyadh abreast with developments daily through the Saudi Embassy in Bangkok and the Thai Embassy in Riyadh.

"We hope that this tragic case will not affect the good relations between our two countries," he said.

Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan, who asked about the Saudi threat to pull out its diplomats, said he had not received details.

The Foreign Ministry or Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha would be better placed to answer the question.

General Chatchai said police were working full-time on the case to apprehend the perpetrators as quickly as possible.

Embassy Stops Workers' Visas

BK0302145890 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila reported to newsmen this evening that the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Thailand contacted the ministry asking it to notify the Labor Department of Thailand that Saudi Arabia will temporarily suspend issuing visas for Thai workers desiring to work in Saudi Arabia pending the arrests of the criminals who killed three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok.

Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan this afternoon told a group of newsmen at Thupatemi Golf Course that he had instructed the authorities to speed up investigations and arrest the criminals most urgently. Meanwhile, there was a report that the police already had a clue leading to the arrests of the criminals. However, their identity could not yet be revealed, as this might spoil the authorities' work. It is believed the authorities will be able to make arrests in a few days.

Premier Pledges To Lift Ban

BK0502013590 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Feb 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday pledged diplomatic efforts would be made to lift a ban imposed by Saudi Arabia on recruitment of Thai workers and implied that the Thursday [1 February] murder of three Saudi Arabian Embassy officials might have been an act of international terrorism.

"Thailand and Saudi Arabia have had good relations and it shouldn't be difficult to solve the problem," the prime minister said.

The ban was announced on Saturday in response to the killings. The Thai Embassy in Riyadh was also told that Saudi Arabia might have to close its Bangkok embassy if the Thai police fail to arrest the culprits and guarantee the safety of Saudi diplomatic staff.

Saudi Arabia's embassy has suspended issuing visas to Thais seeking employment in the Middle Eastern country, government spokesman Suwit Yotmani said yesterday. He added that it was unclear when visas would be processed again.

Suwit also said some Saudi Arabian families left Thailand on Saturday because of safety concerns, but did not elaborate.

Second secretary and Saudi consular head Abdallah 'Abd al-Rahman al-Basri, consular officer Fahd Abdallah al-Bahli, and telex operator Ahmed Abdallah al-Saif were shot near their homes in Yannawa district on Thursday by unknown assailants, one of whom was described by eyewitnesses as "Arab-looking." The victims all worked in the embassy's consular section, which processes visas for the thousands of Thais that seek work annually in the oil-rich nation.

Chatchai said he did not believe disputes concerning the export of workers had led to the killings.

"Of course there have been problems (involving labour recruitment) because we have 130,000 Thais working in Saudi Arabia. But we don't believe the labour export caused the killings," the prime minister said.

"I suspect that they were revenge killings resulting from conflicts overseas," he added.

Thai police, however, seem to have emphasized the labour export theory despite frequent accusations recently by the Saudi Arabian media that Iran or Tehran-backed Shi'ite Muslim groups have been responsible for attacks on Saudi officials based overseas.

Saudi Arabian newspapers renewed attacks on Iran following Thursday's murder though they did not directly link the incident to charges that Tehran was responsible for a series of terrorist acts, REUTER reported from Nicosia yesterday.

It was the first attack by the government-controlled media in Saudi Arabia on Iran for several months, dashing hopes that relations broken two years ago would soon be restored.

Saudi Arabia cut ties with Iran in 1988, one year after more than 400 people, mainly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces during demonstrations at the annual Haj pilgrimage.

The newspapers were commenting on a call by over 100 West European parliamentarians on Friday for Iran to be expelled from the United Nations, saying a government that had executed 90,000 people was not worthy of a seat.

Prime Minister Chatchai said he hoped Saudi Arabia would soon lift the ban on Thai workers because of a labour shortage in the Middle East country.

"The two countries depend on each other," he said. "They needed foreign labour so we sent them our workers to help develop that country."

The prime minister added that he had instructed the Interior Ministry to speed up its investigation into the murders.

Sources said police were "shadowing" a number of suspects but still lack enough evidence to arrest any of them.

"We are working round the clock," said Pol Maj Gen [Police Major General] Thawi Thipphayarat, commander of the Southern Bangkok Police and one of the officers leading the investigation.

Saudi Arabia has been the largest market for Thai labour, but Thai officials have played down the impact of the ban, saying fast-growing local industries could absorb much of the labour force barred from the Arab country.

The Labour Department said Thailand exports 4,000 workers to Saudi Arabia monthly.

Some job recruitment agencies agreed that the ban would not affect Thailand drastically.

"The labour export to Saudi Arabia has not been as lively as it used to be and many agencies are already turning to other markets like Iraq and Libya," said Bunsong Saraphan, president of PBM Overseas, a large recruitment firm.

He said his company was sending fewer than 100 workers to Saudi Arabia a month.

TV Channel 7 reported yesterday that many Thai workers recently returned from Saudi Arabia voiced concern that those remaining in the country might be harassed by employers following Thursday's murders.

The returnees said the Saudi Arabian media had paid a great deal of attention to the incident.

Sitthi Speaks on Threat

BK0502015190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Saudi Arabia's threat to withdraw its diplomatic mission from Bangkok is not an empty threat but a serious warning for Thai police to quickly solve last week's murder of three Saudi embassy officials, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said yesterday [4 February].

The minister again confirmed the Saudi ban on Thai labour recruitment.

The chiefs of Saudi Arabia's Inspection and Investigation Departments met ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi on Saturday and handed him an official letter expressing dissatisfaction with the provision of security for Saudi nationals in Thailand.

ACM Sitthi said the two officials also asked him to inform the Labour Department that Saudi Arabia had decided to stop issuing visas to new Thai workers.

"I understand that the ban applies to workers only and other Thais can still go there for business," he said.

The minister was also informed by the Thai embassy in Riyadh that Saudi Arabia's threat to pull out its diplomatic mission was meant as a "serious warning" for Thai authorities to speed up investigation of the killings of three Saudi embassy officials on Thursday.

"They said if we could not find the motive for the murders, they would close the mission out of concern for the security of the staff," ACM Sitthi said.

The minister said the case would be very difficult to crack.

"I just don't know what Saudi Arabia will do if the police cannot make much progress.

"I believe time will help improve the situation," he said.

ACM Sitthi said he had already informed Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan of the Saudi ban on Thai labour recruitment and the threat to pull out its diplomatic mission.

Gen Chatchai yesterday expressed hope that Riyadh would later lift the ban out of consideration for the good relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister said the problem was "not too severe" and he believed it was possible to negotiate with Riyadh.

"Diplomatic matters can be changed and Thailand has very good relations with Saudi Arabia.

"The Government will try to solve the problem," he said.

"Our workers go there to help develop their country. We don't go there just to depend on them and earn money.

"If they do not have the workers I think they will also have some problems," he said.

He said ACM Sitthi had reported to him that Saudi Arabia wanted Thailand to solve the case and arrest those involved as soon as possible.

Riyadh also asked that security be stepped up for Saudi diplomats.

Gen Chatchai said he had already ordered Interior Minister Banhan Sinlapa-acha to boost security for Saudi diplomats.

Gen Chatchai said the motive for the killings was still undetermined and could be either international or local conflict.

Police Conduct Investigation

BK0302034690 Bangkok THE NATION in English 3 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Police yesterday questioned key witnesses in Thursday's killing of three Saudi Arabian embassy officials and said at least one of the gunmen could have been a culprit in the killing of another Saudi Arabian diplomat last January.

But Saudi Arabian government yesterday strongly condemned what they called "terrorist attacks" against Saudi Arabians and demanded that the Thai government speedily track down the assassins and punish them for the crime.

Police investigators apparently agreed that it was likely that the assassination was carried out by local job placement agents organizing the employment of Thai workers in Saudi Arabia although they still could not rule out international terrorists.

Police have stepped up security at the Saudi Arabian Embassy and provided protection for the embassy staff following the apparently well-coordinated killing of the Saudi Arabians near their homes in Yannawa Thursday afternoon.

Sources in the police investigating team said they believe Thursday's killing was linked to the murder of Saleh al-Malik, a second secretary at the Saudi Arabian Embassy's consular section, in January 1989.

"It is believed that one of the gunmen was a culprit in the slaying of Al-Malik," one of the sources said without elaborating.

The sources pointed out that Abdallah A. al-Basri, who took over as second secretary in charge of the consular section after Al-Malik's murder, was known to be an honest person like his predecessor.

Their stringent processing of Thai workers seeking employment in Saudi Arabia may have angered local job placement agents who were accustomed to dishonest practices in sending workers to the Middle Eastern country, the sources said.

Two investigating teams under Deputy Metropolitan Police Commissioner Thanu Homhuan are looking separately into possible involvement of local job placement agents and international terrorists.

Sketches of suspected gunmen have already been drawn up by artists based on the accounts of three key witnesses. However, the sketches will be released only after they were endorsed by the witnesses.

Paper Faults Saudi Decision

BK0502025990 Bangkok THE NATION in English 5 Feb 90 p 9

[Editorial: "Irrational Saudi Decision"]

[Text] Nobody denies that the assassination of three Saudi Arabian diplomats last Thursday [1 February] was an "ugly and shocking" tragedy. Thai government leaders, from the prime minister on down, have expressed regret and instructed the police to spare no effort in apprehending the culprits.

Regrettably, the Saudi Arabian government seems to already hold Thailand responsible for the murders just because they happened in Bangkok. Riyadh has announced that it will stop recruiting Thai workers and has stopped issuing visas to Thais. Moreover, it also threatened to recall its ambassador and even close its embassy in Bangkok to protest what it considered to be inadequate protection of its diplomats.

Such a drastic reaction will only hurt the two kingdoms' longstanding good relationship. It is irrational and unfair to Thailand, for the retaliation was made obviously with the assumption that Thai authorities failed to protect the three Saudi diplomats—which was not true.

Since the assassination of a Saudi Arabian diplomat in Bangkok in January 1989, the police have said they are doing their best to provide extra protection to Saudi Arabian diplomats both at their embassy and residences. The three were shot by gunmen while on their way home. That happened to be the moment when they were unescorted by police. Apparently, they didn't feel they needed the escort, or they would have asked for it.

Undoubtedly, the murders representd a serious breach of security and the police cannot escape their share of the blame. But we doubt that the Special Branch Division, which is directly in charge of protecting diplomats, has enough men to escort every diplomat. A more practical solution is for diplomats who have a legitimate fear of assassination to hire private bodyguards, just like banks and gold shops that hire armed guards to protect their business.

What the Saudi Arabian Embassy should do now, instead of taking retaliatory measures, is cooperate with

the police in investigating the case and more importantly, improving protection for all its other diplomats.

Saudi Arabian diplomats were killed or wounded in attacks in Lagos, Beirut, Karachi and Bangkok last year. Yet Saudi Arabian tourists have seldom been harassed during their overseas visits. Tens of thousands of them safely visit Thailand each year. This indicates that the attacks, including the triple assassination in Bangkok last Thursday, many be politically motivated. Several radical groups in the Middle East are known to have old scores to settle with Riyadh.

About 200,000 Thai workers live in Saudi Arabia and each month about 4,000 more go to that country, which has the largest number of Thais working overseas. The Thais will be severely hurt by Riyadh's decision to stop issuing visas and to stop recruiting Thai workers. In the long run, however, the Saudi Arabian economy will also be adversely affected because Thai workers are relatively more efficient (and they don't demand high wages) than workers from other developing countries. This is why so many of them are in Saudi Arabia.

The Foreign Ministry must step in quickly to clear up doubts in Riyadh and see to it that no Thai workers in Saudi Arabia are subjected to mistreatment. On Friday, one day after the triple murders in Bangkok, two Thai convicts were beheaded in an eastern Saudi province for murdering another Thai. We hope this has nothing to do with the deaths of the Saudi diplomats in Bangkok.

The Foreign Ministry should also try to remind Riyadh, in any subtle way it can, that Thailand is not, and has never been, a colony of Saudi Arabia. The Thai Kingdom values its equal and mutually beneficial ties with the Saudi Kingdom. Providing jobs to 200,000 Thais doesn't mean that Riyadh can dictate its wishes to the Thai government.

The Thai economy has been growing rapidly and there is now an increasing domestic demand for skilled labour. The government should be able to help find jobs for those who now cannot go to work in Saudi Arabia and those who return from that country, where sentiments against Thailand seem to be on the rise.

Saudi's Car Catches Fire

BK0502020190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 5 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] A sedan belonging to a Thai woman working for the Saudi Arabian airline caught fire at Don Muang Airport yesterday, police said.

The unoccupied car of Aphiradi Hongwong was ablaze for about 30 minutes before the fire was extinguished. Nobody was reported injured.

Police have yet to establish if the fire was linked to the murder of three Saudi Arabian Embassy officials in the Thung Mahamek area on Thursday [1 February].

Envoy Denies Iranian Link

BK0302015090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 3 Feb 90 p 2

[Text] The Iranian Embassy [charge d'affaires] yesterday described as "unjustified" and unfair press reports implying that his country has any connection with the killing of three Saudi diplomats on Thursday and other killings of Saudi nationals around the globe.

"It is unjustified. It is not fair," Ahmad Hedayat, the embassy's Acting Charge D'Affaires told the BANGKOK POST yesterday when asked to comment on a wire service report from Kuwait.

The report described the killing of the three Saudi diplomats on Thursday as the "latest victims in a silent war that has stretched around the globe."

The report also said that "many diplomats suspect the hidden hand of Iran."

Mr Hedayat said that Iran itself is a victim of terrorism and that "we are against terrorism."

The Acting Charge D'Affaires said he had no idea how these stories emerged, adding however, that the stories implying an Iranian connection to the killings were based on comments of Western diplomats.

He said that in the killing of Saudi Embassy third secretary Saleh al-Malik in January last year, it was implied that there could be a political motive.

Mr Hedayat said that subsequent investigations showed that the killing of Mr al-Malik "was not related to Iran but related to something to do with business."

The Iranian embassy official noted that Thai police have also said that the motive for Thursday's killings could be related to conflicts over the export of Thai labour to Saudi Arabia.

Commenting on the murders, Mr Hedayat said, "I'm sorry about this event. It is sad and upsetting. They (the Saudi diplomats) are also my brothers. I really have no comment."

Vietnam

2,100 Former Saigon Prisoners Headed for U.S.

BK0202152890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1517 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 2 (AFP)—Some 1,400 Vietnamese loyal to the former U.S.-backed government in South Vietnam will travel to the United States for resettlement by the end of March, the Foreign Ministry said here.

Another 700, mostly high ranking military or civil officials in the former government in Saigon, now Ho Chi Minh City, already left for the United States at the end of last month, according to official figures.

Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Ho The Lan said Thursday [1 February] that "1,400 more will go there (the United States) in February and March."

The former officials, who were released from reeducation camps over the last two years, are emigrating under the terms of an agreement signed by Washington and Hanoi in July after seven years of negotiations. They were detained after Saigon fell to the communists in 1975.

Officials here also confirmed that a joint U.S.-Vietnamese search would be carried out in mid-February for the remains of U.S. troops listed as Missing In Action (MIA) since the Vietnam war, the ninth such search since September 1988.

Mrs. Ho The Lan said Hanoi would also carry out an independent search for the remains of MIAs at Bac Son, a Hanoi suburb, where a U.S. aircraft is believed to have crashed during the war. The search would be observed by U.S. representatives, she said.

She also said the U.S. humanitarian group "Operation Smile" would carry out a second round of operations in Vietnam in mid-February on two groups of 45 people. Doctors from the organisation, who operate on children suffering from facial deformities, first came to Vietnam at the same time last year.

Nguyen Van Linh Delivers Anniversary Speech

BK0202153190 Hanoi VNA in English 1414 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 2—Following is the full text of the speech of Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, at the meeting in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall here this afternoon in celebration of the 60th founding anniversary of the party:

We are today celebrating the diamond jubilee of the founding of the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam, a party founded, fostered and led by our beloved Uncle Ho, a party of the working class and toiling people, the banner leading the Vietnamese people over the past more than half a century in a staunch struggle to extremely glorious successes.

On the occasion of this important historical celebration we turn our minds to the leaders of our party, the heroes and martyrs, the people and comrades who valiantly laid down their lives in the long struggle of our party and nation for independence, freedom and socialism.

The third of February has gone down in the history of our party and nation as a brilliant landmark, a great turning point on the path of national and class liberation and in realisation of the goals of independence, freedom and socialism.

The birth of our party was an event that conformed with the laws of development and reflected the ripe objective and subjective conditions in the evolution of the history of the nation as well as in the common trend of the world revolution. Our party was a product of the combination between the patriotic movement, the working class movement and Marxism-Leninism.

With the founding of the party on the third of February 1930, Comrade Ho Chi Minh fulfilled the historic mission of ending a deep crisis in the national salvation policy that had existed for several decades, unifying all communist organizations into a single party as a leading nucleus for the revolution. From then on, history entrusted our party with the mission of leading the Vietnamese revolution and also from then on, the destiny of our nation was tightly bound to that of our party.

Years have elapsed but the abridged political platform and tactics formulated by Comrade Ho Chi Minh and duly adopted on the founding day of the party and which was later complemented and developed in the political thesis written by Comrade Tran Phu, the first general secretary of the party, has always been a torch blazing the way for the revolution of our people.

The Communist Party of Vietnam is, first and foremost, the embodiment of the ideals of independence and freedom of the nation.

Right after its birth, the party launched a widespread revolutionary movement, starting with the strike by 5,000 workers of the Phu Rieng Plantation culminating in the tidal Nghe Tinh Soviet Movement, spearheaded at the colonial occupationists and their henchmen, and though the revolution was drowned in blood and later fell back, it had an extremely valuable significance. For the first time the leading power and ability of the party towards the masses was demonstrated in practice; for the first time it was demonstrated how strong the worker-peasant solidarity bloc could be if it was placed under the leadership of the party.

The 1930-1931 revolutionary movement further strengthened the unity in action of the party ideologically, politically and organizationally; many party members were tempered through the revolutionary crucible. Its significance also lies in "the training of forces for the coming August Revolution" as President Ho Chi Minh has pointed out. In other words, it was the first dress rehearsal for the successful August Revolution.

The temporary failure did not deter the party, and instead the party carried out a series of activities aimed at strengthening its ranks, rallying the masses, perfecting the line and tactics of struggle; as a result, only a few years later the revolutionary movement was restored and developed.

In 1936, in face of the imminent danger of fascism and the Second World War and in response to new developments both in the country and in the world, the party decided to found the Indochinese Democratic Front aimed at the immediate goals of opposing the colonial reactionaries henchmen of fascism, demanding freedom,

livelihood and peace, temporarily setting aside the overall goal of overthrowing imperialism and colonialism.

That correct proposition of the party generated a high tide for democratic rights which lasted for nearly three years (1936-1939), and was a unique event in a colonial country at that time. In that tidal movement, the party skillfully combined the demands for democracy and better livelihood with the national demands, combined various forms of struggle; legal, semi-legal and illegal, inside and outside parliament, through that movement, the party became mature in mastering the art of rallying the masses in various forms and awakened millions of people politically.

That was the second dress rehearsal under the leadership of the party in preparing for the successful August Revolution.

World War II broke out. Basing itself on the analysis of internal and international situations, the party predicted that "the state of affairs in Indochina will evolve toward the question of national liberation". Anticipating the imminent strategic opportunity, the party shifted in time the strategic and tactical orientation, giving precedence to the task of national liberation, making the preparations for the general insurrection the central task. In this direction, the party set up the Viet Minh front to further the work of the anti-imperialist front set up previously, built up the armed forces, combined military activities with uprisings of the masses to seize partial power and established revolutionary bases. The Nam Ky and Bac Son uprisings were brilliant pages of history reflecting the indomitable spirit of our people under the party's leadership in this period.

This was the third dress rehearsal (1939-1945), directly preparing for the August Revolution to wrest back power in the whole country to the people before the allies and the French expeditionary corps entered the country.

When "the decisive hour for the destiny of the nation" struck, our people from north to south, responding to the call of the party and Uncle Ho, rose up en masse in a nationwide general insurrection and in less than two weeks, established a people's democratic state, the first in Southeast Asia.

The August Revolution freed our people from slavery and made them masters of their own country, turning our party from an illegal party into the ruling party, opening up a new era for our nation, that of independence, freedom and socialism.

Hardly had the state of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam come into being when it had to face immense difficulties: Famine, illiteracy and foreign aggression were threatening the destiny of the country which was like "one thousand kilograms hanging by a thread". Our party and President Ho applied flexible tactics in order to make more friends and less enemies, try to gain the maximum possibility of peace while preparing for the worst. But the more concessions we made, the further our enemies pushed forward; they broke off all treaties already signed in a clear attempt to conquer our country once more. Our people had no other alternative but to take arms.

Our party, under the leadership of Uncle Ho charted out the line of the people, all-round and prolonged war of resistance by relying mainly on our own forces, mobilising and boosting the people's strength and winning over the support and sympathy of our friends across the world. As a result, our resistance was strengthened in all fields and further developed, and the more we fought the stronger we became. We defeated many strategies and tactics deployed by the French imperialists and the U.S. interventionists, and finally achieved a decisive victory at Dien Bien Phu. The Geneva agreements were signed, the northern part of our country was rid of enemies.

The Dien Bien Phu victory was a great encouragement to the oppressed peoples in the world, ushering in period of disintegration of old-type colonialism on our planet.

Meanwhile, in the south, having replaced the French imperialists, the U.S. imperialists placed on our people the yoke of neo-colonialist domination. Faced with such a situation, our party worked out the line of simultaneously carrying out two strategic tasks of building socialism in the north and carrying out the national democratic revolution in the south, achieving national reunification, defining the respective tasks of the north and the south and the close relationship between the great rear and the great frontline.

In the resistance war in the south, the party raised to the highest level our people's heroism, brought the science and the art of people's war to a new degree by combining the political and armed struggle with agitation among enemy ranks, and at the same time combining the control of land and attacking the enemy to achieve land control in the strategic areas of the delta, the urban areas and the highlands. Our party also combined armed struggle with diplomatic activities to win active support from the socialist countries and progressive mankind, including the American people's movement against the aggressive Vietnam war. Those were the factore that our people relied on to defeat the biggest, longest and most bitter war of aggression of the U.S. imperialists since World War II. With the general offensive and uprising of spring 1975 the peak of which was the historic Ho Chi Minh campaign, the southern part of our country was completely liberated. Our motherland was reunited and the entire nation marched forward to build socialism.

The victory of the resistance war against U.S. aggression for national salvation of our people also made an important contribution to the gradual defeat of the neo-colonialist scheme for enslaving the world people, upsetting the reactionary global strategy of U.S. imperialism, thus significantly contributing to the strengthening of world peace.

The revolutionary history of our people during the last few decades has demonstrated that, in the present era, a nation which is not large in terms of land size and population but closely united and persistently struggling under the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist party, following a correct revolutionary line and method upholding the banner of national independence and socialism, and winning sympathy, support and assistance from the socialist countries, the revolutionary forces, the peace- and justice-loving people in the world, will be absolutely able to defeat any aggressive imperialist forces including the imperialist chieftain. After the victorious conclusion of the resistance war against U.S. aggression for national salvation, a great historic task came to the fore, which our party had to concentrate all its efforts to implement, i.e. to take the whole country onto the road of socialism in order to make the country prosperous to bring a decent, free and happy life to everyone.

This tremendous task had already started immediately after the liberation of the North. Nevertheless, because of the war of resistance in the South, the North had both to give efficient aid to the South and to confront the war of destruction by the enemy, therefore could not concentrate all its efforts and means on building socialism. Today, this task has become the central task to be tackled by our party. Under the leadership of the party, during almost 15 years of building socialism on a national scale, our people have gained some achievements. These are the rehabilitation of the economy so heavily damaged by the war, the building of new, socialist relations of production and further strengthening the technical and material bases of socialism, the development of culture, education and healthcare, the building and consolidation of people's power in the whole country, the two victorious border wars in defence of the homeland, the fulfilling of our international duty to the fraternal countries on the Indochina peninsula.... On the other hand, our party also committed big mistakes and errors in the making of policies and organization and direction of their implementation, thereby diminishing the results already achieved. At its fourth congress, the party charted the general line and orientations for economic development in the whole transitional period to socialism, but did not define correctly the goal and direction of the first phase of development, with many ambitions socioeconomic targets beyond the practical conditions. The fifth party congress worked out more detailed guidelines for economic development in the immediate future, emphasizing the development of agriculture as the prime task. However, the party did not overcome both hardiness and conservatism that were best reflected in the directives and policies of socialist transformation, the building of the economic structure and the mechanism of economic management. Shortcomings were also made during the process of organisation and direction while implementing the resolutions adopted. Especially, errors in the 1981 price adjustment and the general price-wage-money adjustment in 1985 left heavy consequences. In fact, in the mid-80s the socioeconomic situation in our country fell into crisis, the people's life was extremely difficult, the confidence of the masses in the party went down.

The sixth party congress gave a frank analysis of the above-said mistakes and shortcomings, pointed out the causes and drew great lessons, and at the same time, defined the general targets and guidelines in the first phase of development as well as the concrete socioeconomic goals and tasks for the coming five years. The underlying idea of the sixth party congress was the all-round renovation which encompasses all fields, economic, political, ideological, cultural, social, to overcome the old thinking and old style of work which were divorced from life and impeded dynamic development. The key note of renovation is in the field of economy which consists of the readjustment of production structure and investment structure in direction of concentrating on the three great economic programmes, development of a multi-sector economy, linking the transformation with utilisation of the non-public sectors, eradication of the mechanism of centralized, bureaucratic subsidy-based management a drastic shift to socialist cost-accounting, better handling of the relations between goods and money, macroeconomic planning of the marked relations, etc. Politically, emphasis is laid on democratisation of social life, renovation in the contents and mode of activity of the party, state and mass organizations, renovation in the organization and cadre work, enhancing democracy and the dynamism and creativeness of the people in the spirit "the people are the roots".

During the past three years, many resolutions of the Central Committee, the Political Bureau and many decisions and policies of the National Assembly, the State Council, the Council of Ministers were issued with the purpose of concretising and introducing the contents of the sixth party congress resolutions into every day life. Thanks to all that, a great revolutionary action drive of the masses has emerged, especially among the peasants in their production and business activities. At present, the socioeconomic situation is gradually improving. Agricultural production has made big strives in acreage, productivity and output. Foodgrain, foodstuff and consumer goods on the markets are relatively abundant.

The phenomenon of skyrocketing prices has ended, the currency has regained its value, inflation is rolled back and controlled. The state economic sector, after a period of ups and downs has now gradually recovered and is gaining momentum. The non-state sectors continue to develop dramatically. The people's life is less difficult and the livelihood of some segments of the population has improved markedly. In social life, the negative acts are condemned and dealt with accordingly. In the political field, worthy of mention is the expansion of socialist democracy, the power of the elected bodies has begun to carry its decisive weight in practive, the state machinery has been streamlined, the mode of party leadership and state management have seen first improvements. The confidence of the people in the party has initially been

recovered. The general picture of the economy and society has undergone positive and clear changes. However, we should not be subjective and self-complacent because the achievements attained are only the first results which are not steady, the factors of instability remain numerous, the renovation in all fields is uneven and not as deep as one may wish. In addition, in the process of renovation, new contradictions might arise which require our clear-mindedness in order to handle them effectively.

At any rate, the results of efforts made by our people and party during the past three years are encouraging. They reaffirm the correctness of the process we have chosen and create a reliable starting point for further advance.

In short, the 60 years of existence of our party has demonstrated that our party is really the leader and organizer of all victories in the revolution of our country. During these years, at times, the party has committed big mistakes and errors, but it has courageously looked straight into the truth, has openly carried out self-criticism and admitted its errors before the people such as during the land reform and readjustment of organization during the sixth party congress. The party understands that, like a human being, in leading and organizing a revolution, it could not help making mistakes. The fact that it publicly admitted its mistakes does not make the party weaker but it shows signs of a strong party with the full attributes of a vanguard revolutionary party, having confidence in itself and in the people.

After admitting its mistakes, the party determinedly corrected the errors, thereby won back the people's confidence and the revolutionary cause continued its development. Looking back at the whole historic process, it can be said that the positive side of the party has been the main aspect and its achievements are fundamantal. The ability, clearsightedmess and determination of the party are best shown in the twists and turns of history. Such a party is the pride and honour of every party member as well as of the whole people. To affirm the good points and achievememnts of the party is at the same time to affirm the heroic and creative past of our nation and our people, to affirm the lesson that the party's trust in the people and the people's trust in the party are at the origin of all successes of the revolution.

Starting from the historical reality of the revolutionary leadership by the party during the past 60 years as presented above, a number of lessons about the party leadership and the party building task can be applied to the present situation.

The first point: The revolutionary practice in Vietnam during the past 60 years has testified to the following truth: The party leadership in our society is an objective necessity. It is not by chance that history has entrusted the Communist Party of Vietnam with such a mission. Before 1930 in Vietnam there existed many parties and movements which tested their leadership of the masses. But the political programmes and activities of these parties and movements had not stood the test of time. These organizations and their leaders did not lack in courage and self-sacrifice, but because of their limited outlook on the world and ideology, they finally were defeated and disintegrated. After 1930 many other parties came into being (such as the Vietnam Nationalist Party, the Vietnam Revolutionary Alliance, the Dai Viet Party...) but these parties have betrayed the interests of the nation and served as (?stones) to foreigners to help the latter subjugate our country. Before and after the August Revolution, in accordance with our party's decisions aimed at rallying broad sections of the people to wage the revolution and resistance war, the democratic party and the socialist party were founded, working within the patriotic front and voluntarily accepting the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Thus, unlike the situation in many other countries of the world, one of the notable features of Vietnam's revolution is that right after its coming into being, the Communist Party of Vietnam has become the sole leader of the revolution; this is not and cannot be a subjective imposition of the party's will on history. On the contrary, this is a mission entrusted by history through severe selection. Our people through their own experimentation at the cost of their own blood have had opportunities to compare the programmes and activities of various parties and movements with a view to finally choosing "the right man to trust the gold", accepting our party as their genuine and sole vanguard. This is because, as President Ho Chi Minh observed "apart from the interests of the working class and the toiling people, our party has no other interests". Our's is a party of the people, by the people, relying on the people and for the people. Owing to that, the party could bring into full play the vast strength of the people to achieve great accomplishments. Only the party, the best organised vanguard of the working class and toiling people, armed with Marxism-Leninism—the scientific and revolutionary doctrine of our time, is capable of leading the people in the thorough accomplishment of the national democratic revolution, and effecting the gradual transition to socialism. Apart from the communist party, in Vietnam there is no other party of any class and section of population capable of shouldering that role. It was so in the past history, it is so now and it will be so in the future. In the present conditions in Vietnam and in the future too, there is no objective necessity for the creation of opposition political parties. The party constantly strives to renovate itself as well as its leadership so as to fulfill its role of the political vanguard of society. Besides the course of renovation set forth by the party, there cannot be another course conformable to the trend of development as well as to the people's will.

A genuine democratic system is not determined by the existence of one or many parties. The question is whether this democracy is formal or genuine, whether it is democracy for a minority or for the majority of the people; mastering this simple truth is of principled significance for us not to be taken in by the demagogic propaganda about bourgeois democracy.

The second question: In order to be worthy of its role of the political leader of society and of the people's trust and hope, our party has to continously enhance and improve its leadership. This concerns first the charting of strategy and tactics which meet the revolution's needs in each period with a view to show the direction for the advance of society. In this connection, broad vision and far-sightedness, the capability of feeling the pulse of the current needs of life and to predict on a scientific basis forthcoming developments are the foremost qualities that our party must possess.

In the revolutionary periods and resistance wars in the past, those qualities have enabled our party to win victories. At present, the dimensions, complexity and depth of the cause of socialist construction in our country, especially in the period of renovation, demand that the party take those qualities to a new level. One of the primary tasks facing the party in this field is to map out the party's programme and the strategy for socioeconomic development to be presented at the coming seventh party congress. Such problems as analyzing the successes and shortcomings of renovation in the past three years, the steps and contents of renovation in the years to come, the concretization of renovation's contents set forth in the sixth congress resolution in some social fields and in the sphere of mass mobilisation are also urgent problems. As in the past, we stand for parallel renovation in both economic and political fields with emphasis on economic renovation. Renovation in the political sphere ought to be carried out actively but steadily so as to bring about realistic results, causing no political instability and doing no harm to renovation in general. Renovation is a new cause; it could only be carried out through experimental and probing steps. The important thing is on one hand to study and master the basic principles of Marxism-Leninism, creatively applying them to Vietnam's conditions. On the other, we should penetrate more deeply into realities, analyse them, evaluate the experiences of the localities, branches and the grass-roots. In this cause, the party must mobilize the wisdom of the entire party and people, especially that of the social and natural sciences and of the technological circles.

In order to enhance the leading role of the party, the delineation of the functions of the party, state and mass organization should be continued. The party exercises its leadership in society through the setting forth of programmes, strategies, directions, objectives, and approaches on planning and major policies on internal and foreign affairs. After their institutionalization by the state, the party should concentrate its efforts on supervising and monitoring the implementation of the decisions and policies. By so doing, it helps correct possible deviations, amend and improve the promulgated decisions and policies. Exercising leadership without tight control amounts to no leadership at all. It is a weak point prevailing in party committees from the centre to grass roots. One of the fields which the party should devote its energy to is the training and fostering of its cadres, especially those holding key posts at various levels and fields of life. Over the past few years, some progress has been made in this work but it is still far from meeting the needs. In the context of renovation and the transfer of leadership from one generation to another, personnel work has a special importance. It would be simplistic to think that this can be done simply through planning on paper once and for all. It has to be done repeatedly, readjusted and amended on the basis of training, fostering and assigning jobs for the cadres along with inspection work and the discovery of talents. At present, one of the first and foremost tasks in personnel work is to train, foster and complete the ranks of cadres at grass-roots levels (party cells and primary party organizations). This is because grass-roots cadres are those who daily work with people, translate the decisions and policies of the party and state into realities, turning them into revolutionary activities of the broad masses. Life has shown that wherever there are steadfast local cadres, especially key ones, all-round development can be seen. From now to the party's seventh congress, another important task is to prepare personnel for party committees in the provinces and cities and especially for the Central Committee. Through democratic mechanisms and with a high sense of responsibility, the party has by all means to choose really representative men and women in terms of intelligence, capability and qualities to be elected to the Central Committee so that in all circumtances it can steadily lead the cause of renovation to victory along the socialist goals.

The party prepares cadres for itself while recommending cadres for key posts in state organs at various levels for consideration and approval.

The party exercises its leadership toward the state, but it functions within the framework of the Constitution and law. Party organs do not give "orders" or take upon themselves affairs which come within the competence of the state. The party's leadership toward the state is achieved through the democratic mechanism defined by law and through the influence of party members working in the state apparatus. Only so can democracy be promoted, can responsibility be reinforced. At the same time it will enable the party to concentrate its attention on its leadership mandate. First and foremost, we should overcome the tendency of the party to take upon itself the affairs of the state and to exercise its leadership by imposing its decisions on others. We must also combat the tendency to loosen the party leadership and rely entirely on the state. Both these tendencies will lower the leading role of the party.

Enhancing the role and quality of the party's leadership in society implies one more important aspect, that is raising the capacity and renovating the style of the party's leadership in its relations with the masses. It is common knowledge that the ties between the party and the masses are always a question of vital significance for our party as well as for the revolution. The strength that has brought about our victories in the previous revolutionary and resistance periods stemmed from the party's

flesh-and-blood bond with the people, its ability to lead and bring into full play the vast potentials in the people, as well as its due care for their vital interests. The great role of the masses is reflected in the famous folk saying appearing during the anti-U.S. war of resistance and more than once mentioned by President Ho Chi Minh: "The easiest job cannot be done without the people's support. But any job, however difficult, can be done if the people join effort".

We should candidly admit that at present many of these good traditions are being seriously eroded on a wide scale. One of the reasons is the bureaucratism of the cadres, party members and apparatus, including those apparatuses in charge of work with the masses. Bureaucratism is a dangerous disease against which Lenin on many occasions cautioned us and waged a constant fight because it is not only a legacy left behind by the old regime but also "a partial recurrence of bureaucratism within the Soviet system itself". Recent realities in some brotherly socialist countries have helped us to see even more clearly what harm bureaucratism has done to the party's prestige and to the revolution as a whole.

At the present moment, life itself urgently demands that we give serious thought to the ties linking the party and the masses in the conditions of a party in power and to the radical renovation of mass work accordingly. In particular, the party has to give due attention to the education and training of communist youth union members and of all young people in general, according to the teaching of Uncle Ho: "It is very important and necessary to foster revolutionary generations for the future". Since these issues are of great significance, the Political Bureau has proposed that the coming 8th plenum of the party Central Committee should discuss the question "renovation in mass-related activities of the party".

The power, the prestige and the quality of the party leadership depend for a decisive part on the full promotion of socialist democracy which includes democracy in the party and in society. Democracy is both the objective and the driving force of our renovation cause, an effective instrument to strengthen the party. Democracy essentially involves actual realisation of the rights of the people in their social-economic and spiritual life, bringing into full play their initiative and creativeness in the cause of socialist construction. Along this direction, in the three years since the sixth congress of the party, socialist democracy has made initial progress particularly in the economic field.

Great efforts have been made by party and mass organizations, and state power organs, in creating new democracy-promoting mechanisms. However, what has been achieved are only initial steps on the long road of promoting and perfecting socialist democracy. Most worrisome are the serious violations of democracy both in inner-party life, state, organs, mass organizations, as well as regarding civil rights in various aspects of social life. On the other hand, although the door to democracy has just been opened there have already emerged signs of extremist, unprincipled democracy or the tendency to demand only the expansion of democracy while neglecting principles, discipline and law. It is obvious that for socialist democracy to take firm root in society, to become the daily way of life of everyone, every organization and of the whole society, great and perseverant endeavours are needed. In the coming time, some essential directions as mentioned below should be initiated:

—Continuing to supplement, improve and establish new institutions and mechanisms of democracy (including the study and establishment of necessary organizations, laws policies, regulations and rules, etc). With a view to determining the civil rights and obligations in various fields of activity.

—Ensuring the implementation of the civil rights and obligations already promulgated, and the strict penalisation of offences according to law.

—Consolidating and strengthening the organization and the efficiency of the inspection and control system (comprising the people's inspectorates, state inspectorates, party and mass organizations control organs) of the courts, the prosecutor's office and the police.

—Broad education and propaganda about the Constitution and law both at school and in society.

To promote democratization in society, we should first start right from within the party. The Central Committee, the Political Bureau, the party Secretariat as well as primary party organizations should all set good examples in the exercise of democracy. All officials and party members including those of high positions, must live and work according to law like every other citizen, without exception.

The third question: One of the valuable traditions of our party has been the constant preservation of solidarity and unity of mind in the party. This is the factor behind the strength of our party throughout the past 60 years. In his life time, until his very last days, Uncle Ho never failed to take care of this crucial point. In his "testament", he advised that "comrades from the Central Committee to the party cells should preserve the solidarity and unity of mind in the party as they do the apples of their eyes". We are proud that in the history of our party there have never been any splits or divisions, any factional strife, though disunity did occur to various extents, here and there, now and then. However, we must not neglect or forget the consolidation of solidarity and unity of mind in the party. Firstly, because we need now to strengthen even further the solidarity and unity of mind that had been forged in the past. Secondly, the bases and conditions for solidarity and unity of mind are not entirely identical in various stages of the revolution. Previously, during the period of revolution and resistance, our unity was based on the struggle for national independence, liberty and national reunification to free ourselves from the chains of slavery. In the circumstances when there were just inches between life and

death, it was the natural need that people unite to save the country and to save themselves. At that time every cadre, every party member with ruck-sacks on their backs, joined the revolution and the resistance with a light heart and a clear mind. Now that the party's leadership over the administration has been established throughout the country, the profound basis for unity is the implementation of the ideal of socialism. This is a new, complicated road which involves many questions to be explored and experimented with and the rights or wrongs are by no means easy to be immediately discerned. It's understandable that differences of opinion would crop up under these circumstances. But the main thing is that those differences should not be allowed to lead to splits. On the other hand, a large segment of our cadres and party members now are entrusted with authority and great responsibilities, which renders the struggle between the common interests and the self interests more complicated than before. These new characteristics should be well recognized in order to work out appropriate measures to strengthen solidarity and unity of mind in the party. Not withstanding the above-mentioned characteristics, the factors that make up the solidarity and unity of mind in whatever revolutionary period, must include the following main aspects:

First, the party should map out correct lines and policies. This is the most important factor, as it creates the political and ideological basis for broadening solidarity and unity of mind. This reminds us of the need to be sensitive to the situation, to muster the wisdom of all party members and of the masses, in order to constantly improve and perfect the line and policies. At present, the basis of unity for rallying all cadres, party members and the masses in our country is the policy of renovation mapped out by the sixth congress of the party.

Second, we should strictly implement the principles of democratic centralism, of criticism and self-criticism in party life. Uncle Ho pointed out that "the exercise within the party, of frequent extensive democracy and of scrupulous criticism and self-criticism constitutes the best way to consolidate and develop the solidarity and unity of mind in the party. There must be comradely affection".

Third, we should strongly oppose individualism. Experience shows that internal disunity is often the result of individualism. Individualism manifests itself under various forms as pride over one's past merits, envy at others' positions, self-conceit, contempt for the collective, embezzlement, bribery, greediness and arbitrary use of power. Another dangerous form of individualism is opportunism which tends to rise. It is precisely because of this that Uncle Ho singled out individualism as "the enemy", because it could lead to "disunity, lack of discipline and organization, irresponsibility, wrongful implementation of the line and policies of the party and state". It should be born in mind that once the party has become a party in power, individualism and opportunism could find a propitious environment to develop and could become very damaging when they depend on power to exist and freely exert their destructive influence. Therefore, all cadres and party members ought to be always on the alert in their self-education with active collective assistance, in order to limit and reduce the damages.

The fourth question. The strength and prestige of our party takes source from the actual manifestation of the class and vanguard character of party members. The history of the existence and development of our party over the past decades has proved that fact. As Uncle Ho put it, "the strength of the party lies in good party cells; good party cells are formed by good party members". This explains why in 1945, with only about 5,000 party members, our party was able to lead our people to seize power throughout the country. At present, our party has more than 2 million members, 400 times as many as that time. Obviously, as the revolutionary cause develops, party membership also increases. What is important is that number must go along with strength, quantity must go hand in hand with quality. It is undeniable that many party members and cadres are still setting bright examples of good conduct and playing their active role among the masses and they deserve the love and trust of the masses. But, at the same time, there is another reality, that is, not a few party members and cadres have degenerated, relaxing their class and vanguard character failing to meet the confidence of the masses. In our party, there was a time when in classification of party members, we had "average" members. I think personally that the concept of "average" party members should not exist. Being party members, we must be the most outstanding part of the class and people. Regarding weak members, by all means, we have to find ways to dispose of. [sentence as received]

The socialist renovation requires each and every party member and cadre to constantly renovate themselves. First and foremost, they must renew their perceptions. For that purpose, they must strengthen their studies to have a better command of Marxist-Leninist theory, the line and policies of the party and the state, and improve their general, technical and professional standard. In the main, they should teach themselves by combining studies with practical work. This is the best way to get rid of the habit of relying only on experiences and (?stagnation) which is now quite common among our cadres. Lack of knowledge, particularly modern knowledge, will impoverish our intellect, and prevent us from acting with consciousness, self-control and creativity, a key factor to take the renovation cause forward. This is all the more necessary for party members and cadres who are holding leading positions. I want to emphasize this point since in not a small number of organizations, there is a danger that leading cadres have lagged behind the masses. What is most important, however, is that the titles of "communist party member" and "cadre" must be preserved and their qualifications proved by deeds not by words. Communist party members and cadres must truly base all their work on the concept of "the people being the roots", maintain close ties with the masses, fully understand their worries and aspirations and take good care of

their vital interests, thus setting examples and giving guidance to them. It is regrettable that not a small number of party members and cadres still have numerous shortcomings in this regard. Passiveness, indifference, irresponsibility and bureaucratic workstyle are prevailing in many places. Some cadres are not even moved by the grievances or cries for justice from the masses. What concerns them everyday is nothing more than their own interests and those of their families. There have even been cases where party members and cadres take the lead in mobilizing and deceiving some like-minded people into fostering troubles during land disputes and opposing the administration. Those cases must be dealt with sternly and cannot be allowed to recur. The danger of losing away the masses will be all the greater if the above-mentioned situation continues to prevail without any remedial measures. I do not wish to cite many other negative phenomena. I'd just like to bring to your notice the fact that of late, the cases of violation of socialist property, embezzlement, bribery, squandering of the people's money, licentious lifestyle among a number of party cadres and members—especially those working in economic branches—have spread too at alarming extent, giving rise to legitimate indignation among the different strata of people. This is truly a crime in any sense, judging from either the viewpoint of individual morality or social behaviour. These evil woodworms must be resolutely eliminated by law. The party, through its discipline, must put an early end to this dangerous erosion of the party's prestige. Attention should be paid to the fact that how the masses view the communist party depends to a large extent on how the individual party members behave in their workplaces and residential quarters. There is no abstract or invisible party that is out of sight of the masses. Party members must, first and foremost, train themselves, conduct self-criticism and at the same time, organise activites through which the masses can make their remarks about and criticism of party members and cadres, especially the leading ones. The responsibility over the conduct of party members rests, in the first place, with the party cells. In our entire party, the number of primary party organizations that have only a weak influence on party members and the masses now accounts for twenty or thirty percent. This gives us much food for thought. The party Central Committee will in the near future make it an imperative task of consolidating primary party organizations, pushing ahead the campaign to purify the party as well as the state apparatus and to make social relations wholesome.

The fifth question: The history of our party is the history of a close combination of patriotism, proletarian internationalism and socialist internationalism, a combination of the nation's strength and the forces of our time. This is a precious tradition of our party that has been forged and further enhanced with every passing day. Right at its birth, our party was a trusted member of the International Communist and Workers' Movement. On the one hand, we have enjoyed the whole-hearted support and assistance from the Soviet Union, China, Laos, Cambodia and other socialist countries as well as from the International Communist and Workers' Movement and the progressive forces the world over. On the other hand, we have contributed as much as we can to the promotion of socialist revolution and progressive movements throughout the world. We have the right to be proud of our disinterestedness, purity and faithfulness in our relations with frateranal parties. Manifestations of narrow-minded nationalism are entirely alien to our party. Following the assumption of power, our party has been afforded more favorable conditions to fulfill its internationalist duty, in the first place, towards its friends on the Indochinese peninsula in the spirit of "helping a friend means helping yourself" as Uncle Ho put it.

As is known, some socialist countries are at present facing severe difficulties. In the midst of the waves of restructuring and reform emerging as an objective necessity to remedy the deviations which have deformed socialism, the communist and workers' parties in a number of socialist countries are undergoing a serious crisis giving rise to new contradictions which never existed before. We support the renewal along the line of striving for the socialist goals with a view to strengthening socialism, bringing into full play its superiority, thus making it a firm stay for other nations of the world in the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism. We earnestly hope that the fraternal peoples and parties will be able to overcome these enormous trials soon. The parties will regain the confidence of the masses and resume their role of the political vanguard in society. The reactionary and imperialist forces are sparing no efforts to oppose and sabotage the socialist countries. But, contrary to their wish, it is in no way easy for them to reverse the socialist ideal that has taken deep roots in the life of millions of people as the most rational course to take their countries forward. For our part, we will consistently continue to broaden our all-round relations with the fraternal countries, enhance international socialist solidarity and actively take part in the effective renewal of the activities of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance. To the World Revolutionary Movement for Peace, National Independence, Democracy and Socialism, our party and people have been and will forever be a trusted friend marching on the same road for the common goal and lending mutual support and assistance. The Panama event taking place recently reminds us of the need to further heighten our vigilance and harbour no illusion about the so-called "good will" for peace, "respect" for human rights and "non-intervention" in the sovereignty of nations often clamoured by imperialism. Our people fully understand that those who have invaded and ruled over other peoples are in no way qualified to speak about the right to self-determination and human rights.

Celebrating the diamond jubilee of the founding of the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam, we have the right to be pround of our beloved party, of the road that our people and party have taken. Only 15 years after its

birth, our party was able to lead our people to successfully carry out the August Revolution, and forty-five years after its founding, independence and freedom were regained in the whole country. At present, our party and people are entrusted with a great historic task, that is firmly to safeguard the independence and freedom that have been achieved, build a strong and prosperous socialist Vietnam and bring about a free, plentiful and happy life for each and everyone.

The 1990's—the last decade of the 20th Century on the threshold of the 21st Century—are awaiting us with great challenges as well as tremendous opportunities. On our march forward, the Communist Party of Vietnam vows to bring into full play its glorious traditions, carry on its role of the political vanguard in society and together with the entire Vietnamese people to advance to new heights in the building of more prosperous and beautiful socialist Vietnam as President Ho Chi Minh and our people have yearned for.

—Long live the glorious Communist Party of Vietnam, the organizer of all victories of the Vietnamese revolution!

—Long live invincible Marxism-Leninism!

—The great President Ho Chi Minh will live forever in our cause!

Nguyen Van Linh Appears at Public Function

BK0302023690 Hong Kong AFP in English 0231 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi, Feb 3 (AFP)—The head of Vietnam's Communist Party, Nguyen Van Linh, appeared at a public function here to promote Vietnamese reforms, ending a four-month absence from the public eye, witnesses said.

Mr. Linh, 75, attended ceremonies at the National Assembly (parliament) on Friday [2 February] to mark the 60th anniversary of the party, they said, adding that he appeared in full control of his faculties.

Mr. Linh said there was no alternative to the policy of renewal adopted at the sixth party congress in 1986.

"We must renew the political and economic domains simultaneously and put the accent on economic renewal," he told the Politburo and Central Committee, adding: "Political renewal should be conducted in an active but sure way to avoid creating political instability."

Mr. Linh, architect of Vietnam's economic reforms, was rumored to have been dead or seriously ill after a hospitalization of more than two months in East Germany.

Dressed in a black Mao jacket, Mr. Linh mounted the stage at the assembly building without difficulty and gave a speech of more than one hour in a strong voice.

Rumors circulating among Vietnamese officials as well as East European and Western diplomats had said that the party chief was partly paralyzed and had lost the use of his arms.

Mr. Linh stood throughout his speech, the text of which he held in both hands.

He said it was important to spell out the functions of the party, state and mass organizations, and that the party's role was one of controlling implementation of policies and helping to correct any deviations.

Mr. Linh, elected party chief in 1986, made it clear that there is no chance of a widening of Vietnamese politics.

"Only the CPV (the Vietnamese Communist Party) was able to accomplish a national revolution. It was that way in the past. It is the same today, and it will always be so in the future. There is no objective need to create political opposition parties," he said.

Mr. Linh acknowledged "divergences" within the party between reformers and conservatives, whose leader, former party boss Le Duc Tho, was absent from the official ceremony, contrary to usual practice.

Denouncing "individualism" and "opportunism," Mr. Linh called for the "maintenance of unity and solidarity" and said "divergences need not lead to division."

Mr. Linh admonished party members and cadres not to be "passive, irresponsible, bureaucratic and corrupt."

"Corruption, bribes, waste of goods and debauchery have reached alarming levels and provoke legitimate indignation," he said, adding that he hoped "the party and state apparatus" would be "purified" of "evil elements."

He estimated current party membership at "more than two million."

Turning to the events in "a certain number of brother socialist countries," Mr. Linh said they "showed even more clearly how bureaucracy had caused a loss of prestige to the party and losses to the revolution."

The party chief said "violations of democracy are still serious" in Vietnam, both within the party and with regard to citizens' rights.

He urged "great efforts" to ensure "that social democracy is solidly rooted in society and becomes a way of life for everyone."

Hanoi Meeting Celebrates Founding Anniversary

BK0302153190 Hanoi VNA in English 1411 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA February 2—A solemn meeting was held at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall here this afternoon in celebration of the 60th founding anniversary of the Communist Party of Vietnam (Feb.3) .

Attending the meeting were Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the party Central Committee; Vo Chi Cong, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and president of the State Council; Do Muoi, Politburo member of the party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers; the advisors to the party Central Committee; and leading officials of the Fatherland Front, the National Assembly, the Council of State, the Council of Ministers, and the party and people's committees of Hanoi. Also present were representatives of veteran party members, families which had meritorious contributions to the revolution and mass organizations.

Also on hand at the meeting were members of the diplomatic corps, an international organization here, and delegations of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and the People's Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea which had attended the freshly-concluded seminar in Hanoi on party renovation.

After the opening speech by Vo Chi Cong, party leader Nguyen Van Linh delivered the commemorative speech.

Decree on Militia, Self-Defense Forces Issued

BK0502062590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The Council of Ministers just issued a decree promulgating regulations concerning militia and self-defense forces. The regulations stipulate the organization and operations of militia and self-defense forces and the responsibilities of various echelons, sectors, and mass organizations over the task of building up the militia and self-defense forces. This is aimed at nurturing the traditions and intensifying the development of militia and self-defense forces to meet the needs arising from national construction and defense in the new situation.

The regulations say: Militia and self-defense forces are the people's armed units engaging in production, organized and led by the Communist Party of Vietnam. They are one of the three troop categories of the SRV people's armed forces. Building up the militia and self-defense forces is the duty of the entire people and army, echelons of the administration, and mass organizations under the party leadership.

Cyclone Causes Death, Heavy Damage in Pacific

BK0502110190 Hong Kong AFP in English 1045 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Suva, Feb 5 (AFP)—Cyclone Ofa killed at least four people as it stormed across the South Pacific, causing heavy damage in three island groups, cutting communications and leaving hundreds homeless, radio reports said Monday. The reports, monitored by the South Pacific news exchange service PACNEWS, quoted police as saying that three people were killed in Western Samoa and one died Sunday off of Tonga.

The cyclone, packing winds of 100 knots and gusting up to 140 knots, was battering Monday the atolls of Nuie, meteorologists in Fiji said.

A state of emergency was declared in Western Samoa where two men died after their truck was washed off a road and into the sea off the Island of Upolu at the weekend. Another man drowned in a river on the twin island of Savai'i. Few other details were immediately available. In Tonga, one man drowned and extensive damage was reported to houses, crops and infrastructure.

The Fiji meteorological service said that Ofa, first detected a week ago, swept through the French Pacific territory of Wallis and Futuna, Western Samoa and Tonga before hitting Niue. Communications with Niue, a group of low-lying atolls, were cut after the satellite aerial was shut down to prevent damage.

An Australian Air Force Hercules was on stand-by Monday to fly aid to the battered islands.

On Wallis and Futuna, Ofa caused "quite a bit of damage," said Francois Lamothe-Limouzin, counsellor at the French Embassy in Fiji. He said that preliminary reports indicated the slow-moving cyclone caused damage to crops and homes when it hit the islands late Friday.

Papua New Guinea

Bougainville Plantations Closed, Soldier Killed

BK0502092590 Hong Kong AFP in English 0909 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Port Moresby, Feb 5 (AFP)—A soldier was shot dead by secessionist rebels on Bougainville, officials said Monday, as all plantations on Papua New Guinea's troubled island shut down because of continued attacks and the withdrawal of insurance cover.

Colonel Robert Dademo, chief of staff of the Defence Force, said Private Simon Gabitu, 22, was shot in the neck as he was leading a platoon Sunday and died on arrival at Arawa Hospital.

He was the 10th soldier to die in the guerrilla war waged since November 1988 by militants landowners battling for compensation from the giant Bougainville Copper Mine and secession from Papua New Guinea. Overall, about 70 people have died in the conflict that has kept the mine, once the largest open-cut copper operation in the world and a crucial source of government revenues, closed since last May.

Another victim has been the cocoa and copra plantations operating on Bougainville, which have been forced to close down because of the violence. The island is the country's biggest cocoa producer. Police said the few plantations continuing operations had ceased them at the weekend after rebels destroyed equipment at the Numa Numa Plantation, the province's largest single copra and cocoa producer.

New Guinea Plantations Ltd. Managing Director Roger Gillbanks said the company, which owns nine of the island's 25 plantations, was arranging the repatriation of its workers after ceasing operations. Mr. Gillbanks said government assistance was being sought to return 2,000 labourers assembling at the towns of Tinputz, Soraken and Rigua to their mainland homes. "We can't do it, we don't have the money," said Mr. Gillbanks, adding that people were beginning to panic because food supplies had run out in the towns. But Mr. Gillbanks said many attacks on plantations could be the work of gangs of so-called rascals—unemployed youths—rather than the rebels, whom he considered to be "well behaved."

The closure of Bougainville's remaining plantations followed a notice from the Papua New Guinea Insurance Underwriters' Association to all businesses in the province that all insurance contracts would be declared void after February 28.

A police spokesman said the Numa Numa Plantation's 500,000 kina (510,000 U.S.) fermentry was burned to the ground on Friday, prompting 400 employees to leave for Kieta, where they hoped to find transport to their home provinces. The fermentry at Kunua Plantation was also burned down Friday. Sources said the attack on Numa Numa led management to shut down operations after repeated harassment from rebels.

The Bougainville Copper Mine was mothballed in December after government forces failed to secure the operation from rebel attacks.